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ABSTRACT

The guide provides teachers of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) with classroom instructional activities that reinforce vocabulary or teach specific language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing) while demonstrating that communicating in English can be fun. The activities are brief and self-contained, and an audiotape cassette (not included) is designed for use with the last four sections of the book. Each section focuses on a different type of activity: word games; crossword puzzles; idioms; limericks; jokes and riddles; puzzle stories; shaggy dog stories; and folk wisdom. An answer key is also included. (MSE)

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"The Lighter Side" of TEFL

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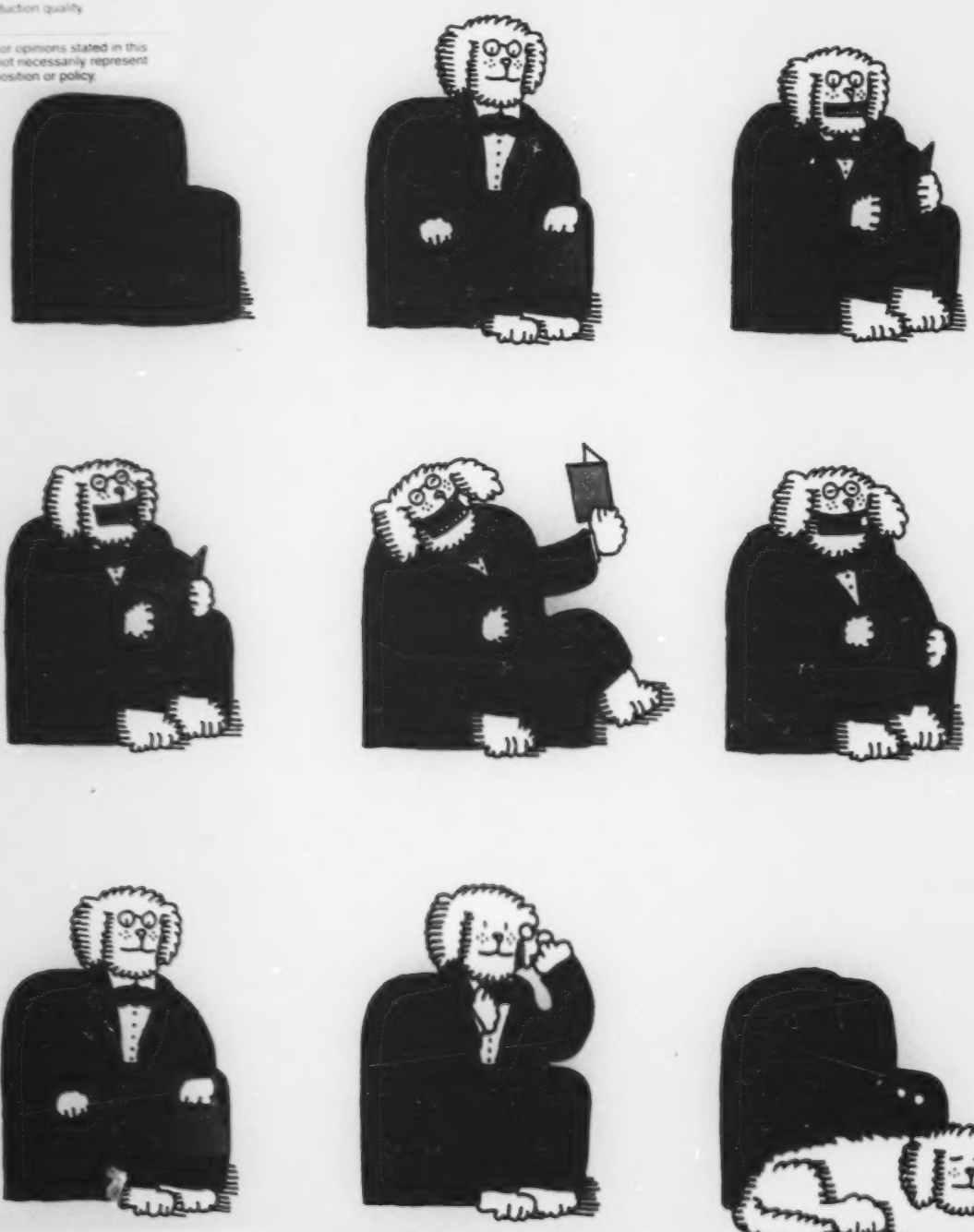

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"The Lighter Side" of TEFL

A Teacher's Resource Book of Fun Activities
for Students of English as a Foreign Language

Edited by Thomas Kral

The Lighter Side of TEFL

Published by the Materials Development and Review Branch
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Dedicated to
Anne Covell Newton

"A little of this and a little of that
(A balanced mixture of lean and fat)
Adds spice to the pudding; it cannot hurt,
And it brings to the reader his just dessert."*

*From the first Lighter Side Page published in the *English Teaching Forum*, January 1976

introduction

The Lighter Side of TEFL is a collection of activities taken from the *English Teaching Forum* 1976 to the present. They have been regrouped and arranged into new categories to facilitate teacher use.

As the title of the text implies, *The Lighter Side of TEFL* exposes students to humorous aspects of American English to create a cheerful classroom atmosphere and a positive orientation to the language. Many of the activities reinforce vocabulary or give students practice in listening, thinking, speaking and writing, but the underlying goal of all activities is to produce a smile and an awareness that communicating in English has a lighter side and a potential for fun.

The activities are short and self-contained, and they may be good for starting off or ending a class hour. Because humor is something to be shared, the activities should be done in pairs or small groups and then discussed with the class as a whole. An answer key to the exercises is found at the end of the book.

The book is a handbook for teachers. They may choose to reproduce individual pages for occasional use in their classes or as group homework assignments. The book is not meant as a textbook for EFL students to be completed from cover to cover during a term of study.

The accompanying cassette is to be used with the last four sections of the book that are dedicated to listening comprehension activities and discussion. Collectively, the recorded sections provide learners with a variety of different speakers representing a cross section of American dialects.

As editor, my task has been to select, classify and contextualize the different activities that appeared in the *English Teaching Forum* over the last seventeen years. For the most part, the puzzles and games were created by Anne Covell Newton who edited the magazine and to whom this book is dedicated. Anne has consistently been an advocate of bringing humor and wit into the classroom. We both hope this text will lighten up the EFL learning process and heighten the joy of both teaching and learning the language.

Thomas Kral

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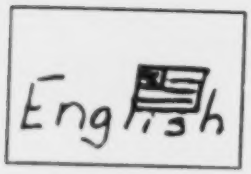

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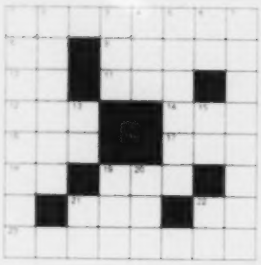

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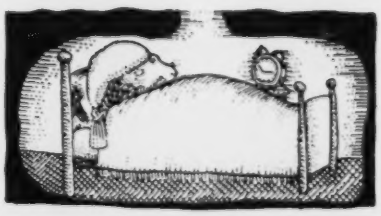

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word games

Vocabulary can be reinforced by using a variety of game formats. Focus may be placed upon word building, spelling, meaning, sound/symbol correspondences, and words inferred from sentence context.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES. The full communicative potential of these games can be realized through good spirited team competition. Working in pairs or in small groups, students try to be the first to correctly complete a task.

These games can be used at the end of a lesson or before introducing new material as a "change of pace" activity. Teachers should allow sufficient time for class discussion after the game has been completed.

2

Letter Power

Add a letter

A. From each word below, make two new words by adding a letter (1) at the end; (2) at the beginning.

1. go __
   __ go
2. oil __
   __ oil
3. arm __
   __ arm
4. hear __
   __ hear
5. hat __
   __ hat
6. not __
   __ not

B. Form new words as in A (above). In addition, form a third word by adding a letter at the beginning and the end of the word.

1. ever__
   __ ever
   __ ever__
2. car __
   __ car
   __ car __
3. eight __
   __ eight
   __ eight __
4. in __
   __ in
   __ in __
5. on __
   __ on
   __ on __
6. pin __
   __ pin
   __ pin __
7. at __
   __ at
   __ at __
8. he __
   __ he
   __ he __
9. an __
   __ an
   __ an __
10. all __
    __ all
    __ all __
11. ear __
    __ ear
    __ ear __
12. can __
    __ can
    __ can __

Change the first letter

Make one word into another by changing the first letter.

EXAMPLE: Change a **possessive pronoun** to **not sweet.** ANSWER: **your, sour**

1. Change a **past tense of BE** to an **adverb of place.**
2. Change an adjective meaning **not high** to an adverb meaning **at the present time.**
3. Change a **period of time** to a **term of affection.**
4. Change **was seated** to **have a meal.**
5. Change a **part of the head** to **international strife.**
6. Change a **respectful title** to **atmosphere.**
7. Change **to learn thoroughly** to **not as slow.**
8. Change **very warm** to a **negative adverb.**
9. Change a **motor vehicle** to **not near.**
10. Change a **man's title** to a **female relative.**

4

A T-party

Put T before a word to form a new word.

EXAMPLE: Add a T to a **firearm** and get a **thing of little value**. ANSWER: **rifle, trifle**

1. Add T to **at this place,** and get **at that place.**
2. Add T to a **covering for the head,** and get a **demonstrative adjective.**
3. Add T to **tear,** and get a **journey.**
4. Add T to a **possessive pronoun,** and get a **demonstrative adjective.**
5. Add T to a **part of the head,** and get **to pull apart.**
6. Add T to **of great age,** and get **narrated.**
7. Add T to a **mistake,** and get **great fear.**
8. Add T to the **entire amount,** and get **of great height.**
9. Add T to a **shower from the sky,** and get **to teach.**
10. Add T to a **kind of vase,** and get **to rotate.**

Change a letter

Each picture illustrates a common word. Change one letter of each word to produce the name of an animal.

EXAMPLE: ax — ox

1

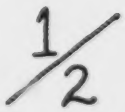
2

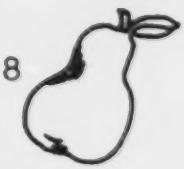
3

4

5

6

7 

8 

Change the last letter

Make one word into another by changing the last letter.

EXAMPLE: Change a color to a **welcome.** ANSWER: **green, greet**

1. Change a **monarch** to an **adjective describing a good quality.**
2. Change a **negative** to the **present time.**
3. Change a **female horse** to a **stain** or **blemish.**
4. Change **alarm** or **worry** to a **notable achievement.**
5. Change a **reading process** to a **short dramatic act.**
6. Change a **person who lacks good judgment** to **something to eat.**
7. Change a **unit of weight** to a **color.**
8. Change a **part of a plant** to a **hole** or a **crack.**
9. Change the **top** or **summit of a mountain** to a **fruit.**
10. Change a **woman servant** to **what is delivered by the postal service.**

6

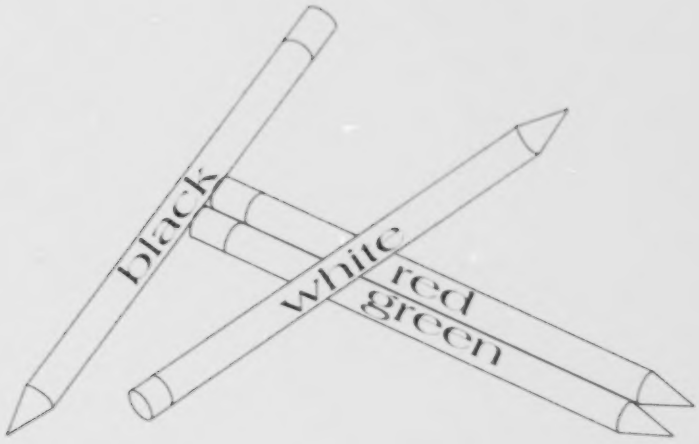
Hidden Words

Animals in hiding

Find the *animals* hiding in the following sentences.

EXAMPLE Close the doo**r at** once! (rat)

1. That will be a real help.
2. She came late every day.
3. He came to America today.
4. Eric owes me ten cents.
5. We made errors in each one.
6. Do good workers succeed?
7. If I shout, he'll hear me.
8. If Roger comes, we'll begin.
9. We will go at two o'clock.
10. Is it the sixth or seventh?
11. In April I only came once.
12. I'll sing; you hum on key.
13. I made a Xerox copy of it.
14. She clothes naked babies.
15. At last, I, Gerald, had won.
16. Was Pilar mad, ill, or glad?
17. That man ate eleven cookies.
18. Your comb is on the table.
19. We're sending only one book.
20. He regrets having said that.
21. If Al concentrates, he'll win.
22. When I withdrew, Al rushed in.
23. He called Mikko a lazy boy.
24. It's only a kilometer away.



Hidden colors

Find the name of a color hidden in each sentence: (The first one has been done as a sample.)

1. Some parts of the face are the eye, eye**brow**, **n**ose, and mouth.
2. I'm not really dumb; lack of sleep made me forget the answers.
3. If I tell you what she said, will you agree never to tell anyone?
4. In the box we found a pencil, a pin, keys, and a few coins.
5. Are three zeros enough to write the number one thousand?
6. The wheelbarrow hit eleven rocks as it rolled down the hill.
7. When the nurse gives you the injection, just yell "Ow" if it hurts.
8. Elsa and Otto ran gently down the path to the river.
9. Before arriving at Kuala Lumpur, please fill out these forms.
10. I play nearly all the stringed instruments: violin, cello, bass viol, etc.
11. When I opened the window, shining rays of sunlight flooded the room.
12. We'll go in Jim's car. Let's leave at six o'clock.

8

A numbers game: seen and heard

I. Each of the sentences below contains a hidden number. It may be wholly within a word or may go across two or more words. In each case the spelling is exactly the same as the written form of the number, although the pronunciation may be different.

EXAMPLE: If **I've** said something to hurt you, I'm sorry. (five)

A. Listen carefully to the dialogue on the tape recording.

B. It would be better to learn the language thoroughly.

C. When the plane took off, I very much wanted to cry.

D. We thought that was the best year of our lives.

E. Now their team is even with ours.

F. "Honesty is the best policy" is a well-known maxim.

G. The papers I xeroxed didn't turn out very well.

H. The words were spoken in each of the languages native to those present.

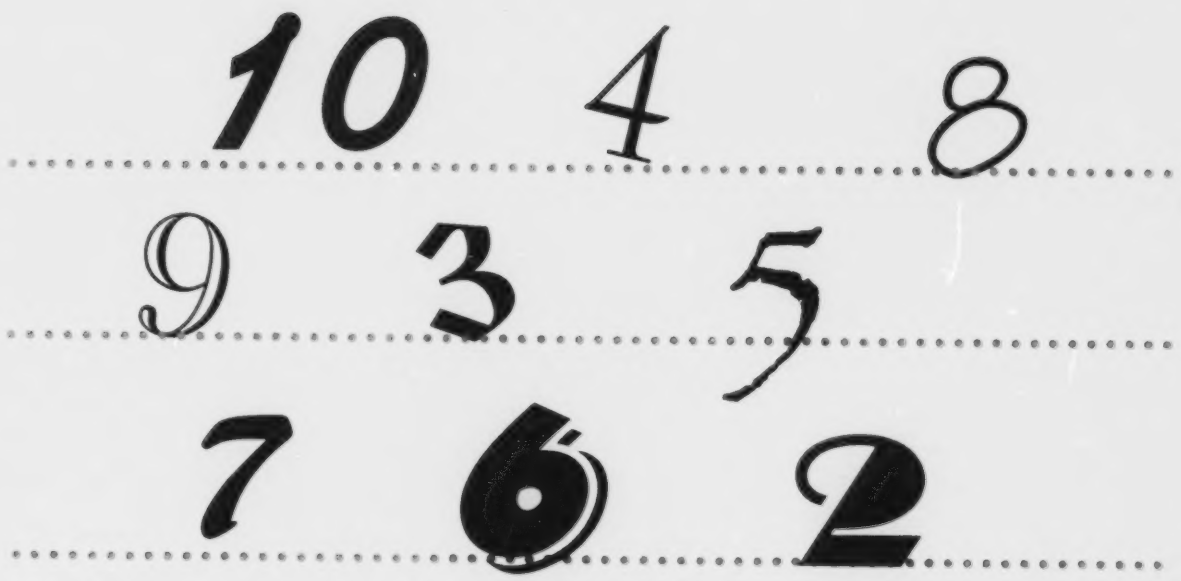
I. Paul is going to leave today; Robert went yesterday.

J. *You* replaced the *thous* and *thees* of English several centuries ago.

K. I hope that our efforts to rectify the error will comfort you a little.

L. Her remarks about the silent way made Caleb ill; I on the other hand, thought the points were well taken.

M. I wish I could have been present at this event you are telling us about.



II. The numbers hidden in the following sentences may be heard but not seen. That is, the *sound* or pronunciation of the number is present, but not the spelling.

EXAMPLE: We found Jane**t well ve**rsed on the subject. (twelve)

A. John is now working as a tutor of English.

B. He answered before I could even finish the question.

C. Mary ate the whole pizza all by herself!

D. We all breathed a sigh of relief when our team finally won the game.

E. Even I know better than that!

F. Turn the radio off if teenagers come into the house.

G. We both respect your judgment very much.

H. Robert ended his speech on a strong note.

I. The zookeeper moved the sick seals to a different cage.

J. The baker added leaven and some water to the bread dough.

10

Hidden cities

Each sentence below contains the name of a capital city. Identify each city and write the name of the country in which the city is located on the line provided after each sentence.

Created by M. A. El-Moneeb, Saudi Arabia

EXAMPLE: Well, I'm afraid I can't do it. **PERU**

1. Here is the draft of your letter. If you mark it "ok," your secretary will type it. _____
2. Those who were against the war saw to it that their voices were heard. _____
3. To make underground water potable, scientists first used ammonia, then sand later on. _____
4. Can karate movies really make children aggressive? _____
5. No slot machine is needed here. _____
6. The idiom "on a par" is used to mean "equal." _____
7. You can see our colleague in the CAI room at lunch. He is always busy doing something there. _____
8. Housekeepers usually prefer washing to not doing anything at all. _____
9. A cobra battle against a mongoose often ends with the defeat of the former. _____
10. If you use this kind of herb on noodles, the result will be fantastic. _____
11. Tram manufacturing is declining, as nobody needs this kind of slow transportation. _____
12. If you have an infection in your colon, don't eat fats or any other rich food. _____

Word Building

The following activities build upon a common base of letters to create new words.

The"ANT" family

What kind of an ant works with figures? An account**ANT**. Get it? Now what kind of an ant:

1. Lives in the jungle?
2. Is far away?
3. Is extraordinarily large?
4. Works for a master?
5. Is good-natured?
6. Is unchanging?
7. Is luxurious?
8. Is one who takes part?
9. Is a very small child?
10. Is sleeping?
11. Is very bright?
12. Is empty?
13. Is immediate?
14. Is plentiful?
15. Has moved to a different country?
16. Is meaningful?
17. Is something that grows?
18. Has influence over others?
19. Is unsure and indecisive?
20. Lives in a certain place?

12

An artful puzzle

Each answer to the clues below ends in the letters **-art**. How many can you get?

1. A portion of the whole
2. A navigator's map
3. To make a beginning
4. Clever; intelligent
5. Seat of the emotions; part of the body
6. To leave; go away
7. A two-wheeled horse drawn vehicle
8. To pass on information; communicate knowledge
9. A fruit-filled pastry
10. To frustrate; oppose and defeat a plan
11. One who boasts
12. The sum of two pints

Four letters in common

The answer to each of the definitions below is a five-letter word. Each of these words ends in the same four letters, but has a different first letter. What are they?

1. Power
2. Vision
3. Opposite of loose
4. Not dark
5. Opposite of wrong
6. Not day
7. Contend, struggle
8. The number of this clue

Do you know these cities?

(Adapted from H. A. Dayananda, Sri Lanka, *Forum*, April, 1986)

Use the definitions to identify the words ending in **city.** The first letter of each word is given as an additional clue.

1.	V _ _ _ CITY	speed
2.	S _ _ _ _ _ CITY	plainness; lacking anything fancy
3.	E _ _ _ _ _ _ CITY	generates power
4.	A _ _ _ CITY	boldness; rudeness
5.	D _ _ _ _ CITY	deception; lying behavior
6.	F _ _ _ CITY	fierceness
7.	S _ _ _ CITY	an insufficient amount
8.	C _ _ _ CITY	ability to hold or contain
9.	S _ _ _ CITY	wisdom
10.	E _ _ _ _ _ CITY	A rubber band has this quality
11.	F _ _ _ CITY	bliss; happiness
12.	T _ _ _ CITY	persistence; quality of holding on to one's views
13.	E _ _ _ _ CITY	group membership defined by one's national, cultural, religious or linguistic background
14.	V _ _ _ CITY	truthfulness
15.	E _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ CITY	being centered upon oneself
16.	R _ _ _ _ _ _ CITY	a complementary relationship often regarding trade and law
17.	C _ _ _ _ _ CITY	involvement in a crime
18	D _ _ _ _ _ _ CITY	being devoted to home and family life
19.	P _ _ _ _ CITY	information to attract attention
20.	P _ _ _ _ CITY	combative nature; fighting attitude

14

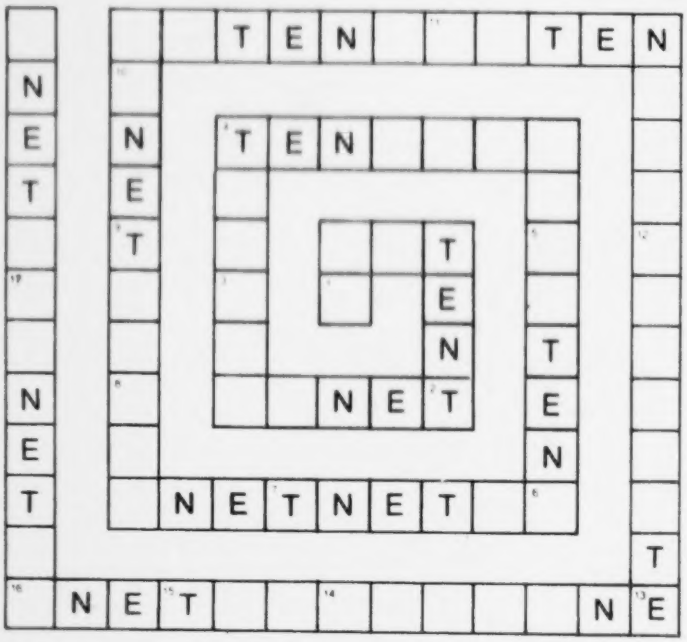
Simple arithmetic: ? + 1 = X

Add one or more letters before the word **one** to get the word defined.

1. ? + one = something that holds ice cream
2. ? + one = part of a skeleton
3. ? + one = no longer here
4. ? + one = accomplished; finished
5. ? + one = without anyone else present
6. ? + one = a musical sound
7. ? + one = a rock
8. ? + one = a geographical region or area
9. ? + one = an identical copy
10. ? + one = a chair for a king or queen
11. ? + one = a windstorm; tornado
12. ? + one = an instrument for talking to someone far away.
13. ? + one = nobody
14. ? + one = not any
15. ? + one = two

A perfect ten puzzle

The word *ten* can be found in all the answers except one (and that has already been provided for you). Each of the words defined begins at the corresponding number of the diagram; it may end at or after the following number. That is, each of the words overlaps with one or more letters of the following word.



1. *n.* something contained; the substance or matter of a written work or an object; *adj.* satisfied
2. part of a plant that curls around any nearby support
3. be attentive; try to hear
4. not fully worked out or developed; done as a trial; hesitant, uncertain
5. to make longer; stretch forth; enlarge
6. a relaxation of strained relations or tensions as between nations (an English word borrowed from French)
7. a game for two or four players who use rackets to hit a ball back and forth across a net on a level court
8. to make or become less hard; to weaken or make pliant
9. *adj.* tightly stretched or strained; *n.* a verb form that expresses distinctions of time
10. a grammatically self-contained speech unit consisting of a word or syntactically related group of words usually containing a subject and a predicate
11. far-reaching; covering a large area
12. to reveal truths to; to free from ignorance; to inform
13. the language taught by readers of this text
14. hurry; move swiftly; be quick
15. a person who pays rent for the use of land, a house, etc.
16. one of a pair of jointed sense organs on the head of an insect, crab, lobster, etc.; a feeler
17. to be present at; to accompany; to listen, pay heed to; to wait on, give care to

16

Words Within Words

Teacher

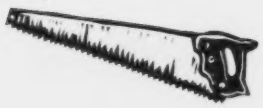
How many English words can you make by combining the letters in the word TEACHER? *Rules:* Letters may be combined in any order, but a letter may be used only as many times as it occurs in the word TEACHER. Proper names and abbreviations are not permitted.

Maine

How many words can you make from the word MAINE, the northeasternmost state in the United States.

Clues:

1. Nickname for *Mother*
2. principal; chief
3. belonging to me
4. male person
5. cruel; average; signify
6. grown-up boys
7. hair on a horse's or lion's neck
8. myself (as object)
9. a form of *to be*
10. indefinite article
11. purpose; objective
12. preposition
13. myself (as subject)
14. contraction for *I am*
15. what you are called



Tools

How many words can you make out of the word TOOLS?
Can you find:

a preposition

a word meaning "also"

a word meaning "implement"

the capital of Norway

British slang for lavatory

goods taken away unlawfully

a poetic word meaning "look"

a plot of ground

very much

a word meaning "that cannot be found"

a song sung by one person

therefore

chimney dirt

a drunk

a name for the sun

a small narrow opening

something to sit on

18

Ninepins

Can you knock down, one at a time, each of the bowling pins in the row above, so that the remaining letters always spell an English word? HINT: Begin by taking out the second "T." That will leave the word *starling*, which is the name of a bird. (The remaining words are easier and more familiar.)

SHRINKING WORDS

The object of this game is to make each word shorter by taking away one letter at a time (keeping the remaining letters in their original order) to form a new word. Do this as many times as you can, each time forming a new word as a letter is deleted.

EXAMPLE: FORUM, FORM, FOR, OR

1. PLATE
2. STAND
3. WAIST
4. STOOP
5. SNORE
6. CHASTE
7. THINK
8. PAINT
9. BOUNCE
10. BOARD
11. BEREFT
12. FRIEND
13. SHINGLE
14. DINNER
15. RELATE

Word Magic

Westward ho!

Change one word into another in steps by changing one letter at each step to make a new word.

EXAMPLE: Change EAT to HOT in 2 steps: EAT — HAT — HOT

1. Change ROPE to RIDE
   in 2 steps
   ROPE
   _ _ _ _
   RIDE

2. Change ROPE to MULE
   in 3 steps:
   ROPE
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   MULE

3. Change ROPE to LIFE in
   4 steps:
   ROPE
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   LIFE

4. Change FLOUR to BREAD
   in 6 steps:
   FLOUR
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   BREAD

5. Go from EAST to WEST
   in 3 steps:
   EAST
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   WEST

6. Change MEAT to STEW
   in 6 steps:
   MEAT
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   STEW

7. Put FOOT into SHOE
   in 3 steps:
   FOOT
   _ _ _ _
   _ _ _ _
   SHOE

20

Alchemy

Using the clues provided, go from the first word to the last word by adding a letter at each step to form the intervening words.

From nothing to a precious metal in 3 steps:

1. Nothing
2. Move; progress
3. Deity
4. Precious metal

From one to a bridge in 3 steps:

1. One (article)
2. One (article)
3. Cooking utensil
4. Bridge

From myself to a span in 5 steps:

1. Myself
2. I would (contraction)
3. To free or do away with (something undesirable)
4. To sit on and be carried along
5. A woman just married or about to be married
6. A span

An alternate route:

1. Myself
2. Prefix meaning two
3. Command or ask
4. Stay, continue; wait; reside
5. A woman just married or about to be married
6. Span

Bird watch

By changing one letter at a time, change BIRD to LARK and BIRD to DOVE (definitions are provided for each transitional word).

BIRD
- _ _ _ _ to tie or fasten; to bandage
- _ _ _ _ people who play music together
- _ _ _ _ a place where money is kept for safekeeping
- _ _ _ _ cry of a dog; outer covering of a tree

LARK

BIRD
- _ _ _ _ poet; Shakespeare
- _ _ _ _ naked
- _ _ _ _ to make weary by being uninteresting
- _ _ _ _ part of the skeleton
- _ _ _ _ finished; accomplished (past part.)

DOVE

22

Double Puzzle Challenge

A pale pachyderm puzzle

Fill in the spaces to make words that fit the definitions. The circled letters from top to bottom will spell out a two-word idiom that means **rare and expensive possessions that are burdensome to maintain.**

1. Somewhat hot ○ _ _ _ _
2. Partial darkness produced by a shelter from the sun _ ○ _ _ _ _
3. Tracks that trains go on _ _ ○ _ _ _
4. Give ear to; pay attention _ _ _ ○ _ _ _
5. A piece of furniture consisting of a smooth flat surface resting on four legs _ _ _ _ ○
6. A fast train that does not stop at intermediate points ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
7. Near _ ○ _ _ _ _
8. Large woody plants that provide shade _ _ ○ _ _ _
9. Not complicated; easy _ _ _ ○ _ _ _
10. Something, no matter what; whatever thing _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
11. High parts of the earth's surface _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
12. A stopping place on a railroad line; depot _ _ _ _ _ _ ○
13. A discussion in which there is disagreement _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ○
14. Structures with walls and a roof _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ○

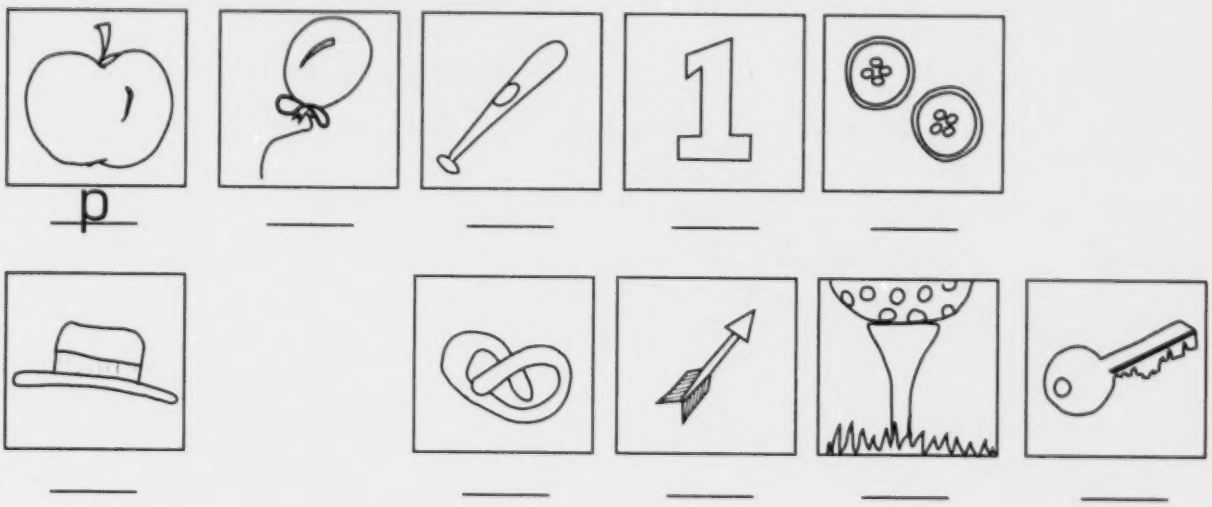
A four footed puzzle

If you correctly fill in the blanks with each of the four-letter words defined below, the initial letters (left-hand vertical column) will spell the name of an animal, and the final letters (right-hand vertical column) will spell an adjective that describes that animal.

1. ___ ___ ___ ___ — 1. Small hoofed farm animal
2. ___ ___ ___ ___ — 2. Thought; concept
3. ___ ___ ___ ___ — 3. Existing; not fictitious
4. ___ ___ ___ ___ — 4. A friend (two words, colloquial)
5. ___ ___ ___ ___ — 5. Front part of the head
6. ___ ___ ___ ___ — 6. Suits; matches in size
7. ___ ___ ___ ___ — 7. Opposite of *entrance*

Middle riddle

Identify each of the pictures below. In the space beneath each picture write the middle letter of each word. For example, the first picture is an apple and the middle letter is P. When finished, the Middle Riddle will reveal an important thing that you can do to help the environment.



A national symbol

Fill in the spaces to make words that fit the definitions. The circled letters from top to bottom will spell out the name of one of the national symbols of the United States of America.

1. Something that flies ◯ _ _ _ _
2. A place to play or relax in _ _ ◯ _ _ _
3. American currency _ _ _ ◯ _ _ _ _
4. A valuable mineral _ _ _ _ ◯
5. Big; large ◯ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
6. The world of living things _ _ ◯ _ _ _ _ _
7. A busy road _ _ _ ◯ _ _ _ _ _
8. A symbol _ _ _ _ ◯ _ _
9. A low area of land _ _ _ _ _ ◯ _

Sound/Symbol Surprises

"FISHY" Spelling

1. Considering the pronunciation of *laugh*, *women*, and *nation*, how would you pronounce

GHOTI
?

2. Considering the pronunciation of *Thomas* (or *thyme*), *weigh*, *school*, *glamour*, and *handsome* (or *handkerchief*), what English word might be spelled

THEIGHCHOUND
?

3. Considering the pronunciation of said, *pneumonia*, *of*, *action*, *belle*, *dough*, and *shepherd*, what English word might be spelled

AIPNFOLLEOUGHPH
?

The poem below is full of sound/symbol surprises in English.

I take it you already know
Of **tough** and **bough** and **cough** and **dough?**
Some falter, (but I think not you)
On **hiccough; thorough, tough** and **through.**
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,
To learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of **heard**, a dreadful word,
That looks like **beard** and sounds like **bird.**
And **dead**; It's said like **bed** not **bead**—
For goodness sake, don't call it **deed!**
Watch out for **meat** and **great** and **threat**
They rhyme with **suite** and **straight** and **debt.**

A moth is not the moth in **mother**
Nor **both** in **bother, broth** in **brother;**
And **here** is not a match for **there,**
Nor **dear** and **fear** for **bear** and **pear**—
And then there's **dose** and **rose** and **lose;**
Just look these up, with **goose** and **choose.**

Now, **cork** and **work;** and **card** and **ward;**
And **font** and **front;** and **word** and **sword;**
And **do** and **go;** and **thwart** and **cart**—
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Sakes alive!
I'd mastered it when I was five!

Anonymous

26

> "We the people of the United States, to ſecure the bleſſings of liberty to ourſelves and our poſterity, do *ordain* and *eſtabliſh* this conſtitution for the United States of America."—

s-f words

There was a time when the English "s" was written like an "*f*," as shown in the above excerpt from *The Federalist*, a series of newspaper essays published between the years 1787 and 1788 to urge ratification of the U.S. Constitution. If the words defined below were written in that 18th century style, you might confuse the two words in each pair. What are they?

EXAMPLE: Moral fault—Part of a fish = *Sin—Fin*

1. A star—A good time
2. Identical—Reputation, renown
3. Noise—Discovered
4. Half a dozen—Repair
5. Rest on a chair—Be appropriate, suitable
6. Vision—Contend, struggle
7. What a plant grows from—Nourish
8. Was on a chair—Not thin
9. Offer a product for money—Past tense of *fall*
10. Make a boat go in the wind—Be unsuccessful
11. Something to sit on—An exploit or deed
12. Cleverly deceitful—Soar on wings

Slight flight *s*/*f* game

In colonial America, one form of the letter *s* used in writing and printing was a "long s": *f*, which looked very much like the letter *f*. If the long *s* were used in writing the words defined in the left-hand column (all of which begin with *s*), each of those words would look like a word defined in the right-hand column, (all of which begin with *f*). How many of the *s*-*f* "minimal pairs" can you match up together?

EXAMPLE: 1 - k (*slight—flight*)

1. Small in amount; not important
2. A number
3. An important part of a wind-driven boat
4. A noise; healthy
5. Vision
6. Identical; alike
7. To take a seat
8. Took a seat; was seated
9. The hot, bright star around which the earth revolves
10. The part of a plant that can be sown to grow into a new plant; kernel origin
11. Tricky; able to fool others
12. Tried to find; looked for

a. To nourish; give food to

b. Big; thick; fleshy; full of oil

c. To repair

d. To move through the air by using wings, or in an airplane

e. To be the right size; to be suitable

f. To not succeed

g. Did battle with

h. Amusement; lively play or joking; a happy time

i. Discovered

j. Great reputation; the condition of being well known

k. The act of flying

l. Battle

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Fauna sauna *s/f* game

Here is a more advanced version of the *s/f* game.

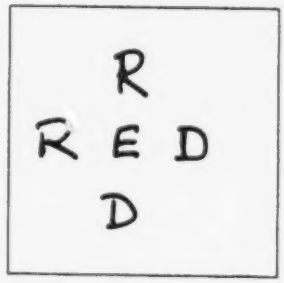
EXAMPLE: Clue—*A steam bath for animals.* ANSWER: *Fauna sauna*

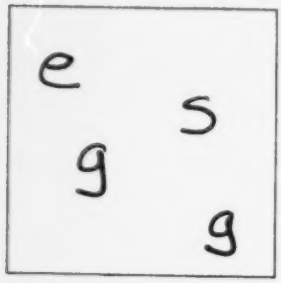
1. A foolish horse
2. An unhappy trend
3. A black legend
4. A light-headed holy person
5. A light-shoe tosser
6. A tricky winged insect
7. Quick-moving icy rain
8. Opposite of the lost chord
9. A knighted evergreen tree
10. A thin strip of wood without humps
11. A trickier aviator
12. Not a fast stream

Graphic English

Mind over matter

Using the position and arrangement of the letters and words in each box find the English word or phrase the picture represents.



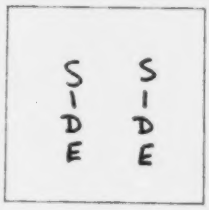


30

Cornerstone

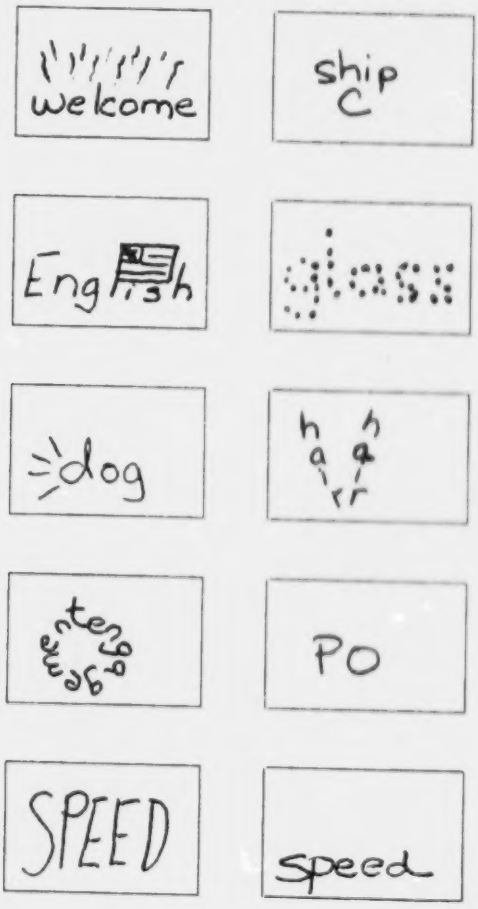
Using the position and arrangement of the letters and word in each box, find the English word or phrase the picture represents. The first one has been done as an example.

CORNERSTONE



More examples of graphic English

What word or phrase is suggested by each of the pictures?



contributed by *Omar Dahnin, Saudi Arabia*

Shapes and meanings

Here are some words that are arranged so that the shape of the word suggests the meaning. Can you think of any others?

i solate

sləəp

flip

fan

brink

dead

Word Shapes

Pyramids and diamonds

Each word in the pyramid is formed by adding a letter to the word above it, and rearranging the letters if necessary. In the twin pyramids, the words opposite each other are formed from the same letters. In the bottom half of the diamond, each word is formed by *subtracting* a letter from the word above it (and rearranging the letters if necessary).

simple pyramid

1. Article
2. Near; by
3. Rested on a chair
4. Heavenly bogy
5. Paper or plastic tube for drinking
6. One who doesn't conserve
7. Pullover; article of clothing

twin pyramids

1. 1st person
2. 3rd person (thing)
3. Rest on a chair
4. Bonds; unites
5. Inflatable coverings for wheels
6. Female relative
7. Fights or defends oneself against

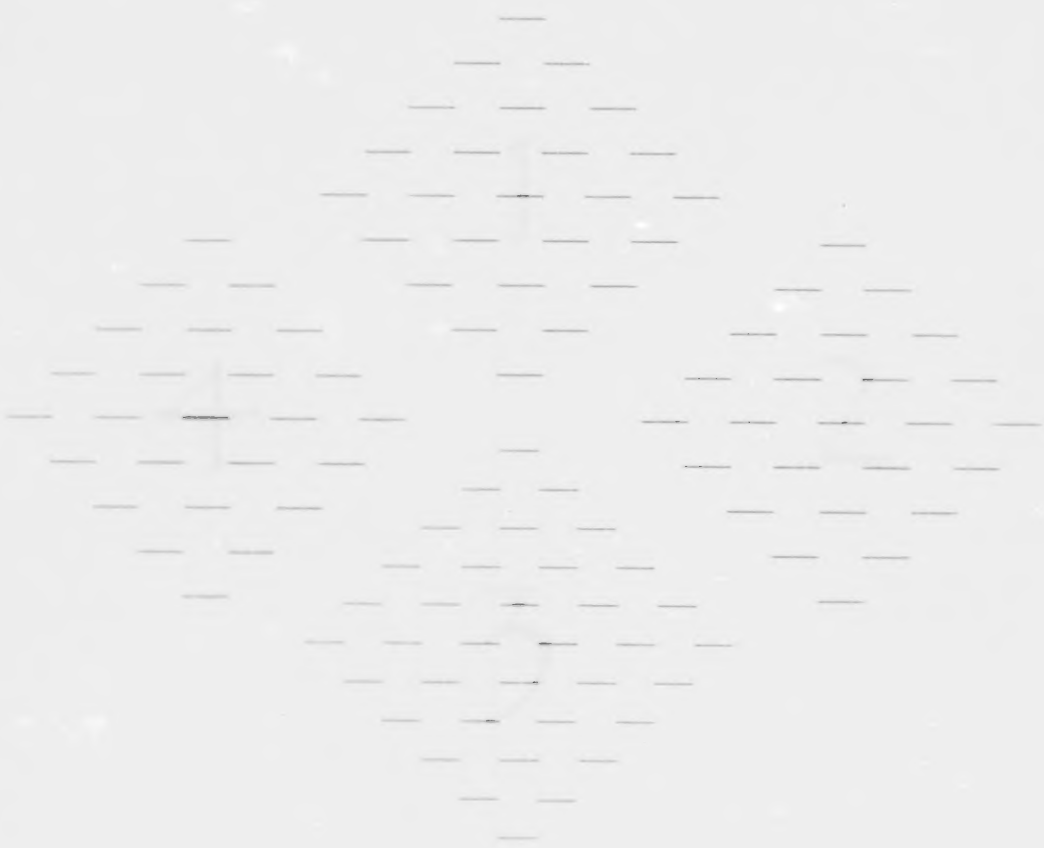
1. Roman numerals for 1
2. Note of scale between *la* and *do*
3. Contraction of *it is*
4. Place; location
5. Attempts
6. Withstand; exert oneself against
7. Women having the same parents

diamond

1. Ninth letter of the alphabet
2. 3.1416
3. Pastry
4. Mature
5. Steeple
6. Religious official
7. Having long narrow bands of contrasting color
8. Spirit; ghost, fairy
9. Long, narrow piece of material
10. Journey
11. Hole in the ground
12. That thing
13. Myself

Word diamonds

Add or take away a letter to make the next word in each of the diamonds above. The answers correspond to the clues below.



Me
3.1416
A short, sharp piece of metal for fastening
A hurting or suffering
Liquid coloring substance
Liquid measure (¼ quart)
Hole in the ground
That thing
1st person

Nothing
Conjunction
Source of metal
Painful
Beach
Footwear
That woman
That man
8th letter

1st letter
Indefinite article
Went fast
Water from the sky
Means of transportation
Make great efforts
Discolor in a lasting way
Man's nickname
Light brown
Alternative to "a"
Indefinite article

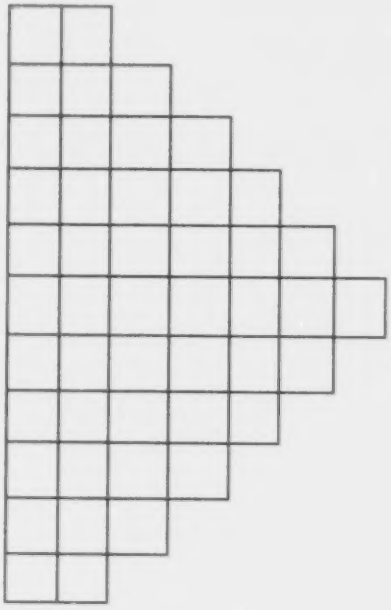
2nd letter
Exist
Risk money on a result
Most good
Animal
Opposite of *west*
Dine
Preposition
Indefinite article

34

Word triangle

The two letters that form the first word defined below are repeated somewhere in each of the other answers.

1. Exist
2. Insect that makes honey
3. 3-dimensional square
4. Swedish peace prize
5. Someone who cuts hair
6. Tenth month
7. Stole from
8. Serious; not drunk
9. Large hairy animal
10. Furniture for sleeping
11. British English (abbr.)



Word circles

Add the missing letter and get a word by starting at the right place and going around the circle.

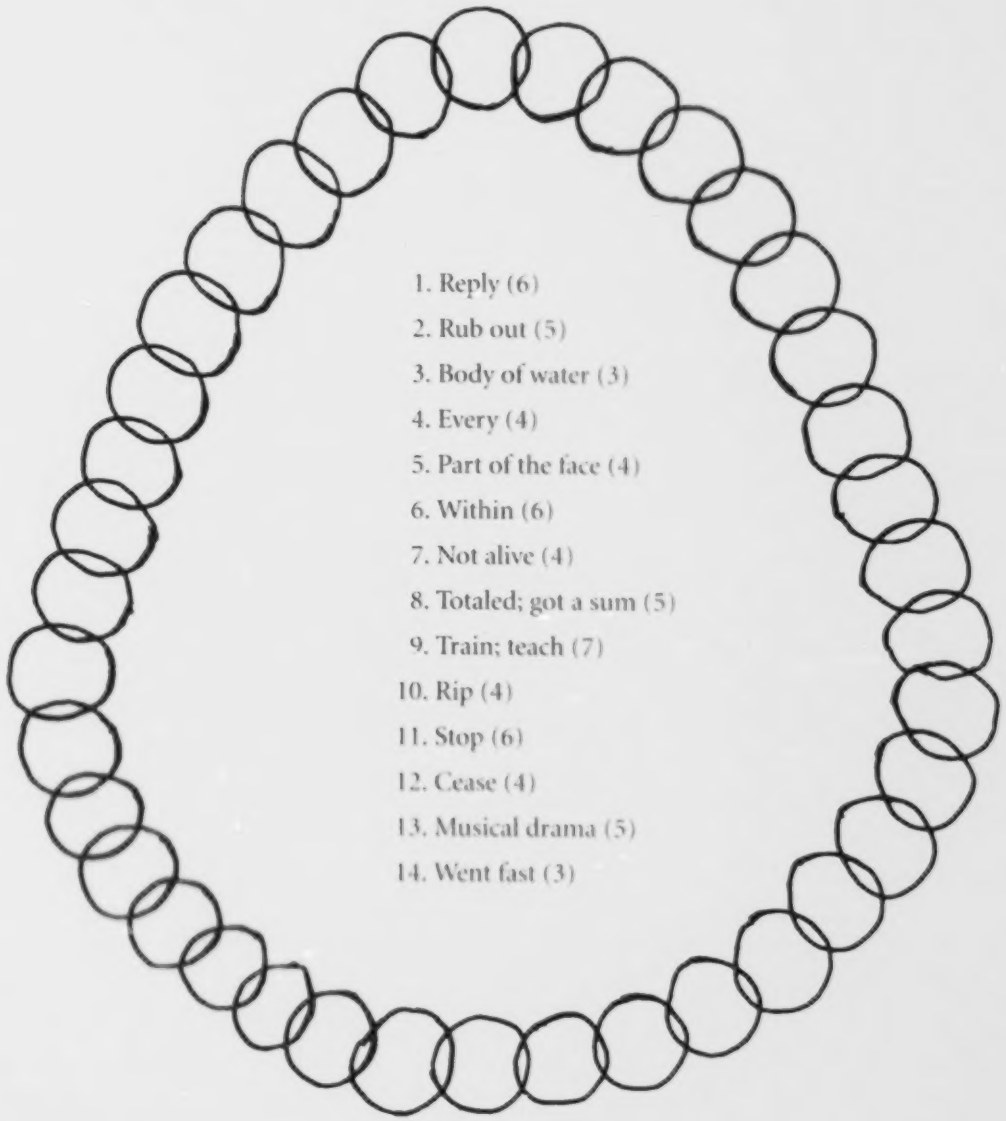
1.
C
H A
E □ M
R T □
S E D
A
G M E A
N □ G □
E I N R
T A

2.
M
E E
R T □
R E E
E
A
D

3.
E
C P

Word chain

Make a word chain by writing in the links the letters of the 14 words defined by the clues. (Begin at the top and move clockwise around the circle.) Each word overlaps with the next word; that is, the final two letters of each word are the first two letters of the following word. (The number of letters in each word is shown in parentheses after each clue.)



1. Reply (6)
2. Rub out (5)
3. Body of water (3)
4. Every (4)
5. Part of the face (4)
6. Within (6)
7. Not alive (4)
8. Totaled; got a sum (5)
9. Train; teach (7)
10. Rip (4)
11. Stop (6)
12. Cease (4)
13. Musical drama (5)
14. Went fast (3)

36

Coded Language

A code message

Can you "translate" this letter-code message into English words, making a four-line verse?

YYUR
YYUB
ICUR
YY4ME

The empty cupboard

You may know the following nursery rhyme:

Old Mother Hubbard
Went to the cupboard
To get her poor dog a bone.
When she got there
The cupboard was bare
And so her poor dog had none.

But what we are not told is that when she opened the cupboard door, Mrs. Hubbard exclaimed:

OICURMT!

Can you tell the meaning of what she said? (Hint: It is six words.)

Letter play

1. What two letters express the meaning "not difficult"?
2. What two letters mean the opposite of "full"?
3. What two letters spell a number?
4. What two letters spell a word meaning "some"?
5. What two letters mean a kind of short composition?
6. What two letters mean "very cold"?
7. What two letters mean the opposite of "causes" (noun)?
8. What letter and number mean "ahead of" or "in front of"?
9. What number and letter spell a popular outdoor game?
10. What number and letter mean "anticipate"?

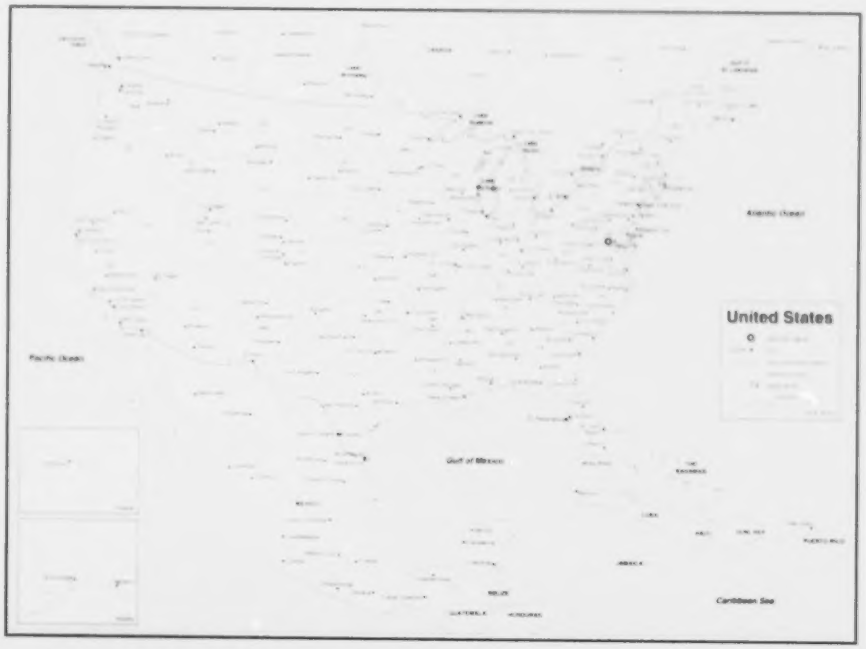
Fun with states: synonyms

The word puzzle below depends on the abbreviations for state names. The abbreviations given here are ones that are frequently used (there are others); they are given in alphabetical order of the state's names:

Ala.	Hawaii	Mass.	N.M	S.D.
Alas.	Idaho	Mich.	N.Y.	Tenn.
Ariz.	Ill.	Minn.	N.C.	Tex.
Ark.	Ind.	Miss.	N.D.	Utah
Calif.	Ia.	Mo.	Ohio	Vt.
Colo.	Kans.	Mont.	Okla.	Va.
Conn.	Ky.	Nebr.	Ore.	Wash.
Del.	La.	Nex.	Pa.	W. Va.
Fla.	Me.	N.H.	R.I.	Wis.
Ga.	Md.	N.J.	S.C.	Wyo.

Some of the abbreviations are English words. Find among the abbreviations synonyms for the following words or phrases: then give the name of the state itself.

1. Shapeless body of matter; uncountable
2. To clean
3. The objective case of "I".
4. Sick
5. Nickname for *father*
6. Title for an unmarried woman
7. A note of the scale
8. Exclamation of sorrow or regret
9. Noah's boat
10. Natural combination of minerals from which metals can be extracted.

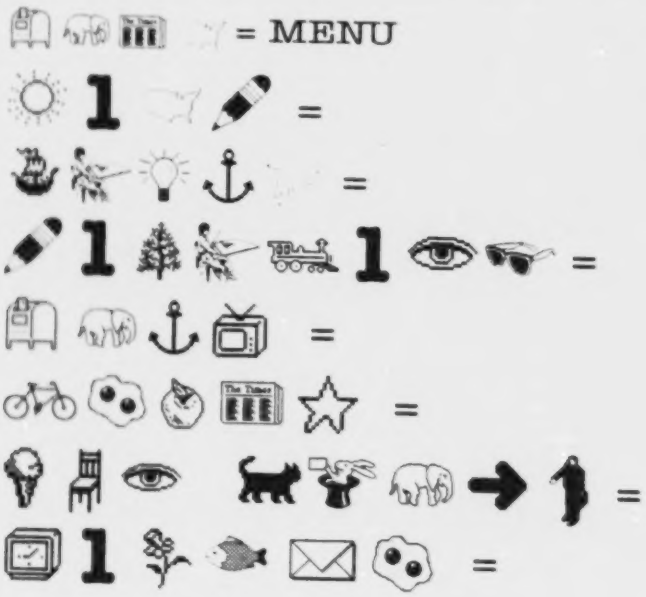


BEST COPY AVAILABLE

38

Picture talk

The initial letters of the picture clues spell out seven English words. If you work them out correctly, you will see the relationship of these words to the word given in the sample.



National park symbols

Match the words to the park symbols

a		1. Swimming 2. Picnic areas	h
b		3. Fishing 4. Pets	i
c		5. Climbing 6. Hunting	j
d		7. Backpacking 8. Boat ramps	k
e		9. Cycling 10. Skiing	l
f		11. Handicapped 12. Scenic drives	m
g		13. Horseback riding 14. Boating	n

Homonyms & Palindromes

Spelling bee

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two or three words that have the same sound but different spelling and different meanings. The number of blanks equals the number of letters in the missing word.

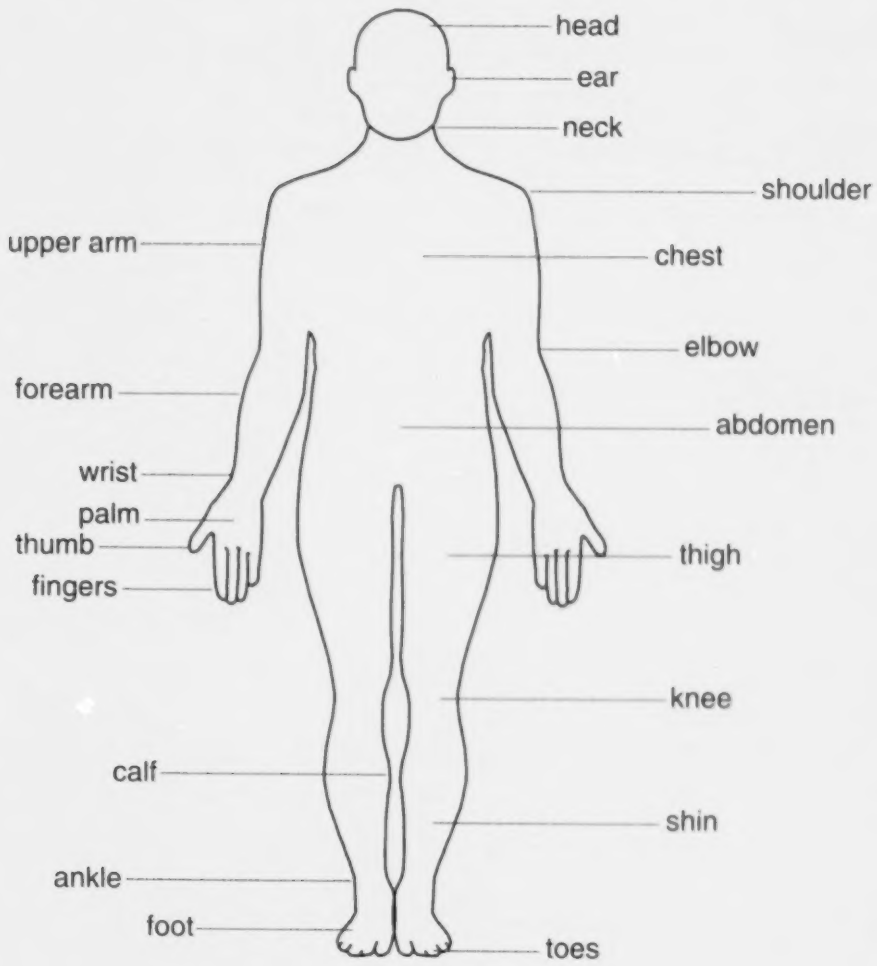
1. Our team _ _ _ _ _ _ game and lost three games.
2. They agreed _ _ play _ _ _ more games next week, _ _ _.
3. The _ _ _ _ golfers watched _ _ _ the ball when they heard someone shout " _ _ _ _!"
4. The four of us were so hungry that we _ _ _ _ _ _ _ hamburgers.
5. Each player _ _ _ _ _ the ball _ _ _ _ _ _ _ the hoop at least once.
6. As we approached the coast we could _ _ _ the _ _ _.
7. Anna had _ _ many things to _ _ _ on her new machine that she had no time to _ _ _ any seeds in the garden.
8. At the airport the guide said, "Come this _ _ _ so they can _ _ _ _ _ your luggage.
9. We had to _ _ _ _ in line until they determined the _ _ _ _ _ _ of our bags.
10. We _ _ _ _ the boat to the dock so it wouldn't go out when the _ _ _ _ came in.
11. Unfortunately, we did _ _ _ put a very good _ _ _ _ in the rope, and it came unfastened.
12. The people on the safari _ _ _ _ _ that a _ _ _ _ of elephants was headed their way.
13. If you sit _ _ _ _ very quietly, you can _ _ _ _ the wind blowing through the trees.
14. The man in the _ _ _ coat _ _ _ _ the notice to me.
15. We _ _ _ _ on horseback through the tall grass until we came to the _ _ _ _ that led to the town.
16. Everything looked so familiar; it was as if we had _ _ _ _ that _ _ _ _ _ before.
17. We went to where they were selling boats, and _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ boats had a sign on them that said " _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _."
18. The students _ _ _ _ _ down in their notebooks the sentences that they had learned by _ _ _ _.
19. The wind _ _ _ _ the rain clouds away, leaving a clear _ _ _ _ sky.
20. The father said, "I will sit in the shade out of the hot _ _ _ ' _ _ _ _ while my _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ the roof on the house.

40

Parts of the body

Each of the following clues refers to a part of the body (in some cases a homonym of a part of the body).

1. A clock has one.
2. A clock has two.
3. Part of a comb
4. A valentine
5. A baby cow
6. A rabbit
7. Nautical "yes"
8. Weapons
9. Part of a river
10. Understands



Alphabetic words

Answer each definition by a word that has the same sound as the name of a letter of the alphabet:

1. Exist (two possible answers)
2. Body of water
3. Indefinite article
4. Beverage
5. Observe, look at
6. Part of the face
7. Have an obligation
8. Flying insect
9. Exclamation of surprise
10. Hint, or signal for action
11. Former (prefix)
12. For what reason
13. Vegetable
14. Peg for holding a golf ball
15. River in England (two possible answers)
16. Billiard stick
17. Kind of blue bird
18. female sheep
19. command to a horse

In the following, the answer sounds like plural letters (eg., dees, efs, aiches, zees, etc.)

20. Freedom from difficulty of discomfort
21. Sensible; discerning; judicious
22. Employ
23. Playfully mock; make fun of
24. Grasp; take hold of
25. Extremities; outcomes; aims; goals

Three-letter name words:

1. Foe
2. Loveliness

Four-letter name word:

Title of honor for certain persons of high position

Five-letter name word:

Appropriateness to the conditions; doing for advantage rather than for what is right; self-interest

Palindromes

A palindrome may be defined as a word, phrase, sentence, verse, or (sometimes) number that reads the same backwards as forwards. Some examples of words that are palindromes are: POP, SEES, EVE, DID, ROTATOR.

Probably the best-known sentence that is a palindrome is MADAM, I'M ADAM—presumably uttered upon introducing himself to Eve (herself a palindrome!) in the garden of Eden. Another one that has been around for some time is Napoleon's (fictitious) utterance ABLE WAS I ERE I SAW ELBA. A third candidate for the trio of well-known palindromes is A MAN, A PLAN, A CANAL—PANAMA!

Many palindromes have a stilted unnatural sound. For example: STEP ON NO PETS and LIVE NOT ON EVIL. (Don't step on any pets and Don't live on evil certainly do not qualify as palindromes, but they would be at least slightly more likely candidates for everyday conversation.)

Palindrome sentences seem to thrive on imperatives and negatives. Sometimes they suggest a plausible context, as DRAW, O COWARD!—if you think of the swashbuckling days of swordplay. In other cases there is a certain quaintness: "TIS IVAN ON A VISIT. Or they may be quite overwhelming in their bombast: LIVE, O DEVIL! REVEL EVER! LIVE! DO EVIL! and its more positive counterpart: DO O GOD, NO EVIL DEED, LIVE ON, DO GOOD!

Occasionally a palindrome may be a question (usually beginning with was and ending with saw): WAS IT A RAT I SAW? and WAS IT A CAR OR A CAT I SAW? and WON'T LOVERS REVOLT NOW? Some of the longer palindromes show a persistent ingenuity as well as imagination: DOC, NOTE I DISSENT; A FAST NEVER PREVENTS A FATNESS. I DIET ON COD. Which reminds us of the plaintive cry of one who has overindulged at the table: STRESSED WAS I ERE I SAW DESSERTS.

By far the most popular palindromic personage is Edna, who performs a variety of feats, usually in tandem: DENNIS AND EDNA SINNED.—PAT AND EDNA TAP.—ENID AND EDNA DINE. At last, a solo performance (though with an implied companion): TOO FAR, EDNA, WE WANDER AFOOT.

The following two palindromes, taken together, provide a family commentary: PA'S A SAP and MA IS AS SELFLESS AS I AM. Sometimes animals get into the act: A DOG; A PANIC IN A PAGODA and TEN ANIMALS I SLAM IN A NET.

Occasionally one comes across a natural palindrome, such as YREKA BAKERY—an actual bakery, located at 322 W. Miner Street, in the city of Yreka, California.

Reverse me

Related to the palindromes but more accessible to our knowledge and imagination, are pairs of words whose spellings are the reverse of each other. Some such pairs are : pool—loop, era—are, spot—tops, rail—liar, time—emit, pan—nap, reward—drawer, dog—god, tap—pat, keep—peek, gnat—tang, dial—laid, sag—gas, rat—tar, span—naps, no—on, lap—pal, sleep—peels, snap—pans, live—evil, step—pets (and many others). Such pairs of words provide the solutions to the following puzzles:

1. I'm the high point. Reverse me and I'm something to cook in.
2. I'm uncooked. Reverse me and I'm armed conflict.
3. I'm a portion of the whole. Reverse me and I'm something to catch (ensnare) something in.
4. I perceived with the eyes. Reverse me and I existed.
5. I'm a heavy weight. Reverse me and I'm a negative.
6. I'm a wild animal. Reverse me and I move like water.
7. I'm a number. Reverse me and I'm an open-meshed fabric used for catching fish.
8. I'm an obstruction used to hold back water. Reverse me and I'm crazy.
9. I was victorious. Reverse me and I'm the present time.
10. I dug minerals out of the ground. Reverse me and I'm a coarse cloth that jeans are made of.

Word Find

Hidden states

Can you find and circle in the grid the hidden state names listed below? They read vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and occasionally even overlapping and reversed. (Note that four of the states are presented in abbreviated form.)

Created by *Homer Wakerly, Colorado Springs, Colorado*

O K L A H O M A S S A C H U S E T T S V
D H N A G I H C I M K E N T U C K Y E I
A M I Z M A R Y L A N D E L A W A R E R
R E I O T R E U P E S V R A I C M N S G
O T O S H S H O V E D I T A W O I E S I
L O A K S A L A K S A R B E N N N D E N
O N N R L O D I E I K G E T A N N R N I
C W E O E A U I G T O I A I M E E A N S
N E W Y A N K R N E T N R N I C S G E I
O S J W F L O R I D A I L Y S T O N T E
C T E E Y E S S I R I A I T S I T I E D
A V R N G R E E K O T A O S I C A M X O
R I S O C A R A R I Z O N A S U U O A H
O R E G O N N A M A B A L A S T T Y S R
L G Y A M S O S I O N I L L I I A W A H
I I G U A M A T N E W H A M P S H I R E
N N I S N O C S I W O C I R P L I E S C
A I N A V L Y S N N E P Q U I T S U N D
C A L I F O R N I A T O K A D H T R O N
K O C I X E M W E N O T G N I H S A W L

ALABAMA	HAWAII	MASSACHUSETTS	NEW MEXICO	S. DAKOTA
ALASKA	IDAHO	MICHIGAN	NEW YORK	TENNESSEE
ARIZONA	ILLINOIS	MINNESOTA	NO. CAROLINA	TEXAS
ARKANSAS	INDIANA	MISSISSIPPI	NORTH DAKOTA	UTAH
CALIFORNIA	IOWA	MISSOURI	OHIO	VERMONT
COLORADO	KANSAS	MONTANA	OKLAHOMA	VIRGINIA
CONNECTICUT	KENTUCKY	NEBRASKA	OREGON	WASHINGTON
DELAWARE	LOUISIANA	NEVADA	PENNSYLVANIA	WEST VIRGINIA
FLORIDA	MAINE	NEW HAMPSHIRE	RHODE IS.	WISCONSIN
GEORGIA	MARYLAND	NEW JERSEY	SO. CAR.	WYOMING

Letter words in hiding

Find the letter words hidden in the grid, using the definitions below as clues. The letters forming the letter-words can appear horizontally (left to right), vertically, or diagonally. The first one has been done for you.

Q	P	V	M	R	G	N
V	B	H	I	S	P	E
M	L	A	D	V	I	S
M	T	S	J	P	O	P
T	C	A	R	F	U	L
V	I	P	U	T	W	A

1. flying saucer
2. request on an invitation
3. very quickly
4. somebody who gets special treatment
5. an advanced degree
6. a person who acts as a host for an entertainment program
7. a sandwich
8. identification card
9. extraordinary powers of perception
10. an electronic transmitter of images and sounds
11. an American airline company
12. a promise to pay
13. a person who presents a recorded music program on the radio

46

World capitals

Within the grid, find the capitals of the countries listed below:

Created by *Perry V. Zizzi, Palau*

U.K.
AUSTRALIA
GREECE
EGYPT
PALAU
MALAYSIA
ITALY
VENEZUELA
IRAN
MALTA
SPAIN
JAPAN
PERU
SUDAN
NICARAGUA
KENYA
BELGIUM
TURKEY
ARGENTINA
SOUTH KOREA
INDONESIA
MEXICO
BANGLADESH
IRAQ
NORWAY
CANADA
PHILIPPINES
IRELAND
TOGO
JORDAN

W L O M Q L O M E C A I R O B E
T O S L O K U A L A L U M P U R
E N Z I T R R N S M A N A G U A
H D E K S A A U E I N Q Y I T M
E I C K E R J K I T A H A T E M
R N A I R O B I U T N G E I S A
A N N I V P E R L A I L E N I N
N O B D U B L I N W L P E I J C
E D E R T D A C C A A H O K E A
F O R T U D U T V A T U A N U R
K O R O R S V E M A D R I D L A
K Y A J S X S B T R N B K E A C
W O R Y I K E E D J A K A R T A
E V E O P R O C L I M A A L E S
B A G H D A D E R S A A R R V M
M E X I C O C I T Y A N O O A C
I F I G O T K H A R T O U M I S
B U E N O S A I R E S T D E O R

Irregular verbs

Write on the line following each verb the simple past tense form of that verb. Then find that word in the puzzle below.

Created by *Perry V. Zizzi, Palau*

1. to begin _____
2. to choose _____
3. to do _____
4. to eat _____
5. to leave _____
6. to run _____
7. to lie _____
8. to know _____
9. to teach _____
10. to say _____
11. to steal _____
12. to think _____
13. to go _____
14. to freeze _____
15. to fly _____
16. to feel _____
17. to have _____
18. to hurt _____
19. to get _____
20. to hide _____
21. to let _____
22. to see _____
23. to wear _____
24. to tear _____
25. to sit _____
26. to drink _____
27. to swim _____
28. to break _____
29. to take _____
30. to sing _____

B E L L E I F L E W E T H O O V E R
A T X L U C K W S T R Y E J H U R T
Y F O R D N A E M A A O S E A E R L
E T A R A S U V I L D E B R O K E I
S T A R E D S A I D V D W R J S A N
I H D T A B G A T O O K A E O U G G
B U I E A N O E L R A M S M N K A K
R U N D A L Z N T E R O A T H T N N
E L S S I O E I A B H U A R K U S E
A T E H R E H X U C E S K I S I S W
K T A F L F R O G S G E T U F W E O
A I R R T E T N H A W L V H W A A R
R R A A I H C T T I C O D E O A N M
E E A B G V H O S L F N R A L U I I
P G A U E G A Z K F E E L E D Y O T
U E O G I G A N A L L I D Y I L N E
B H A T A R A D E T T R L I N G E R
T E C H I R A N R I A T H A D Z I T

48

Word Adventures

Grand canyon

How many words can you make from the letters in the words GRAND CANYON? Clues are given below, but if you prefer, you can proceed without clues. Starting at the top of the canyon, put one word on each line. Try to reach the bottom of the canyon and then climb back to the top on the other side.

2-letter words:
- •public notice (abbr.)
- •article
- •make, act
- •depart, leave
- •negative
- •over; upon
- •alternative

3-letter words:
- •conjunction
- •some
- •curve, part of a circle
- •ungentlemanly man
- •able to
- •automobile
- •kind of fish
- •against
- •cute, coquettish
- •weep; shout
- •part of a week
- •animal
- •put on
- •not wet
- •go about without purpose
- •kind of fish
- •bright, happy
- •deity
- •constantly find fault
- •negative
- •move the head
- •drink
- •correlative of *neither*
- •rowing instrument
- •old piece of cloth
- •moved quickly
- •beam of light
- •legendary bird
- •fishing pole
- •distant

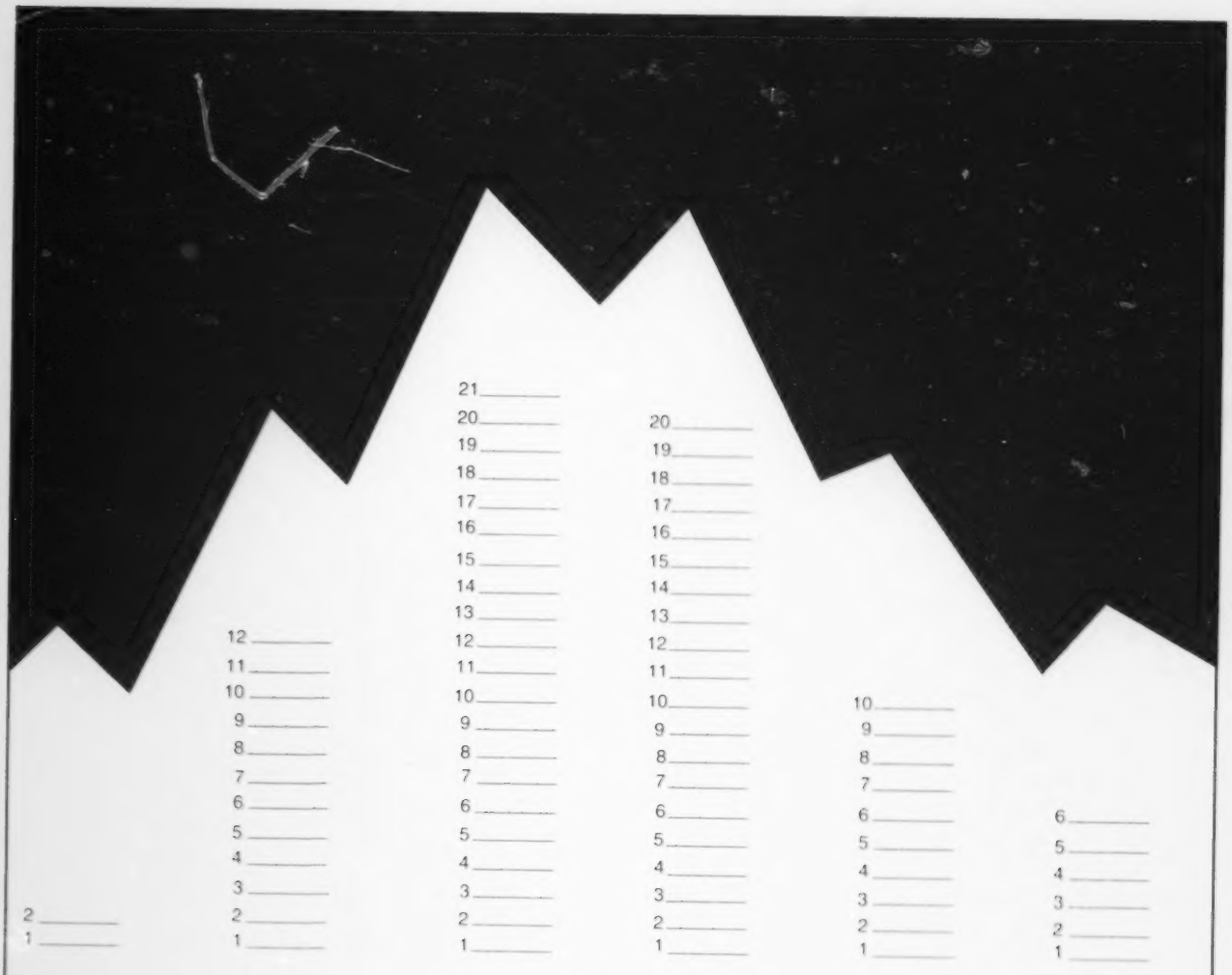
4-letter words:
- •later
- •stiff paper
- •string rope
- •cereal grain
- •rugged cliff
- •mend
- •small boat
- •pull
- •cart
- •spur
- •bloody
- •colorless
- •wild party
- •zesty, risqué
- •sounded a bell
- •path; way
- •red horse
- •garden court
- •wool thread
- •distant

5-letter words
- •irate; mad
- •bother
- •type of gas
- •a sweet
- •shrewd, wise
- •law
- •freight
- •trite, sentimental
- •close friend
- •sound of pain or grief
- •keyboard instrument
- •synthetic fabric

6-letter words:
- •kind of goat, cat, or rabbit (fur)
- •false statement or rumor
- •yellow bird
- •frankness, sincerity
- •large gun
- •crevice
- •coloring tool
- •synthetic fabric
- •mythical monster

50

Mountaineering



21 _____
20 _____
19 _____
18 _____
17 _____
16 _____
15 _____
14 _____
13 _____
12 _____
11 _____
10 _____
9 _____
8 _____
7 _____
6 _____
5 _____
4 _____
3 _____
2 _____
1 _____

20 _____
19 _____
18 _____
17 _____
16 _____
15 _____
14 _____
13 _____
12 _____
11 _____
10 _____
9 _____
8 _____
7 _____
6 _____
5 _____
4 _____
3 _____
2 _____
1 _____

12 _____
11 _____
10 _____
9 _____
8 _____
7 _____
6 _____
5 _____
4 _____
3 _____
2 _____
1 _____

10 _____
9 _____
8 _____
7 _____
6 _____
5 _____
4 _____
3 _____
2 _____
1 _____

6 _____
5 _____
4 _____
3 _____
2 _____
1 _____

2 _____
1 _____

Clues

1-letter words:
- article
- 1st person

2-letter words:
- 1st-person verb
- article
- word used with comparatives
- in the location of
- opposite of *out*
- 3rd-person verb
- pronoun
- negative
- over
- therefore
- in the direction of
- you and me

3-letter words:
- purpose or goal
- island in a river
- insect
- tavern; traveler's lodging
- charged particle
- person
- material used as a pad
- negative
- woman in a religious order
- hard-shelled dry fruit
- kind of grain
- opposite of *in*
- moral offense
- opposite of *stand*
- male child
- total
- source of earth's light and heat
- light brown
- metal; can
- 2,000 pounds
- large cask or vat

4-letter words:
- at another time
- tiny particle
- mother's sister
- preposition
- principal, primary
- vertical pole on a ship
- fragrant herb; where coins are made
- fine rain or spray
- melancholy sound
- small body of water around a castle
- greatest amount or number
- has to
- substantive; name word
- leave out
- remove by force or legal action
- fit; be appropriate; set of clothes
- daze, astonish; make senseless or dizzy
- edible fish
- single thing or element
- to

5-letter words:
- negatively charged particle
- stone- or bricklayer
- slightly wet
- climb, go up
- holy person
- shiny fabric
- animal's nose
- discolor, soil; color permanently
- act of joining; something formed by joining
- deprive of manly qualities or courage

6-letter word:
- total number or quantity
- spirit; animating force
- apply oil; consecrate
- deepest within
- country
- darkening of the skin by the sun

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Twice around the isle/aisle

A swimmer recently swam twice around Manhattan Island in 21 hours, 2 minutes and 46 seconds. Working in pairs, how long will it take you to swim twice around Manhattan? Below are 36 pairs of homonyms—words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings. If you get both members of a pair (spelled correctly), count 40 minutes of time; if you get only one count 50 minutes; if you get neither, count 60 minutes. If you can think of a third homonym (e.g. *I'll* in the above example) *subtract* 20 minutes.

1. *First Lap:*
   a. carry—naked, unclothed
   b. also—number
   c. precious, costly—forest animal
   d. in this place—perceive with the ear
   e. thus—join cloth together with needle and thread
   f. perceived, understood—division of a play
   g. went before, guided—heavy metal
   h. looked at and understood printed letters—color
   i. act of selling—piece of cloth on a boat to catch the wind
   j. heaviness—stay in place until something happens
   k. be aware of, understand—not any
   l. consumed—number
   m. permitted—spoken, not silent
   n. period of time—belonging to us
   o. estimated, answered without being sure—invited visitor
   p. prevailed, was first in a contest—number
   q. was aware of, understood—fresh, of recent origin
   r. purchase—next to

2. *Second Lap:*
   a. crushes or grinds with the teeth—select
   b. alternatively—flat piece of wood used to row a boat
   c. part of the foot—pull something with a rope
   d. main, most important—rule or standard of behavior
   e. small hotel—preposition
   f. pushed air out of the mouth—color
   g. precipitation—rule, be in power
   h. correct, proper—put words on paper
   i. was carried on a horse—street, pathway
   i. the mixture of gases that we breathe—one who inherits
   k. went higher—lines of things
   l. one of the masculine gender—post, send a letter
   m. an opening in something—entire, complete
   n. total of added numbers—a few, any
   o. insect that makes honey—exist
   p. oceans—grasp, take hold of
   q. flock, group of animals—perceived, listened to
   r. place where string or rope is tied together—negative

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Alphabet connect

I am the largest of the land mammals. I live in the forests and savannas of Africa, India, and Southeast Asia. *Who am I?* To answer the question connect the letters of the alphabet in order (A, B, C . . .), first the capital letters, then the small letters.

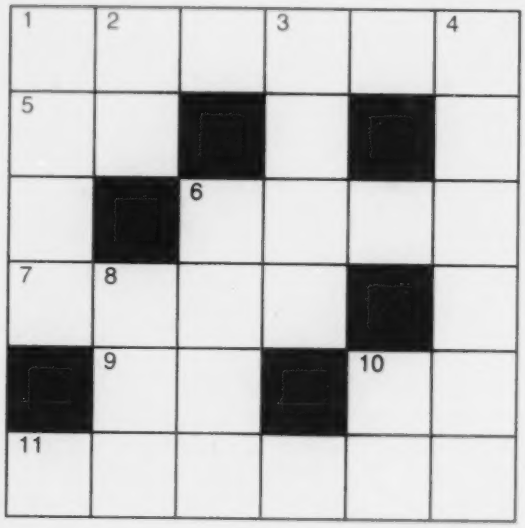
crossword puzzles

Crossword puzzles are an excellent vehicle for cooperative learning. The crossword puzzles in this section are graded into the categories of easy and challenging, based upon the difficulty of the words required for completion.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES. Working with a classmate, students can share their knowledge of English in solving the various vocabulary or grammatical questions posed in the puzzle. After students have completed the puzzle (in class or as homework assigned to be done with a classmate), the teacher should discuss the solutions with the class as a whole. Give students examples of sentences in which some of the new words are used, and ask them to write sentences of their own.

Easy Crossword Puzzles

#1. Openings



Across

1. Made of a very precious metal
5. Article
6. Not sweet
7. At any time
9. That is (abbr.)
10. Therefore
11. Opening in a wall to let in light and air

Down

1. Opening in a wall or fence for a passageway
2. Upon; above and supported by
3. Entrance to a room or building
4. Not wide
6. Observed
8. Seven (roman numerals)
10. Thus

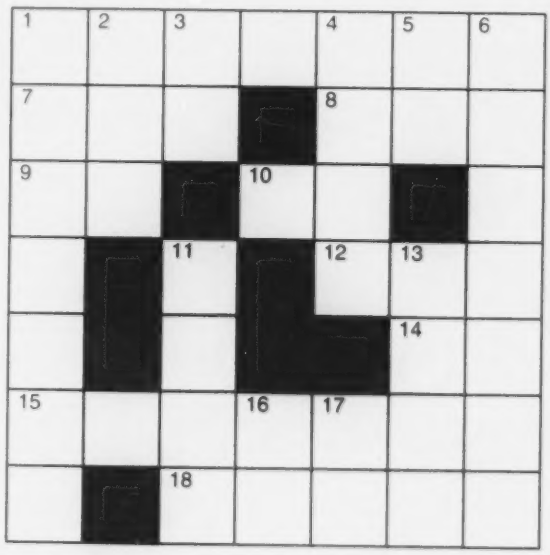
#2. Education

Across

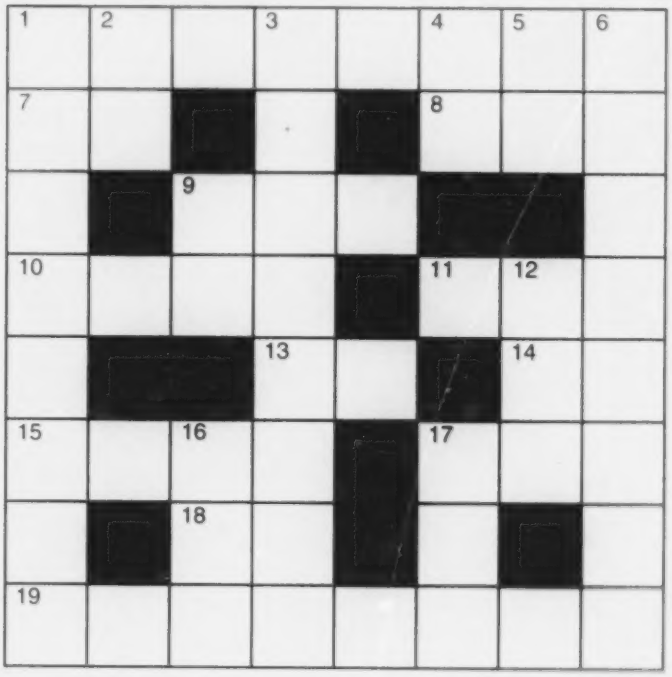
1. Learner; one who studies
7. Opposite of *bottom*
8. Female deer
9. Preposition meaning "over and in contact with"
10. For example (Latin abbreviation)
12. And the others (Latin abbreviation)
14. Exclamation of surprise
15. Test; inspect closely
18. Not ever

Down

1. Tales; short fictional narratives; anecdotes
2. 2,000 pounds
3. Opposite of *down*
4. Rim; border; lip
5. Negative response; opposite of yes
6. Instructor
11. Conjunction used with comparative adjectives and adverbs
13. Vocal or musical sound; a particular pitch in an intonation
16. Objective case of the pronoun "I"
17. Roman numeral for *four*



#3. Communication



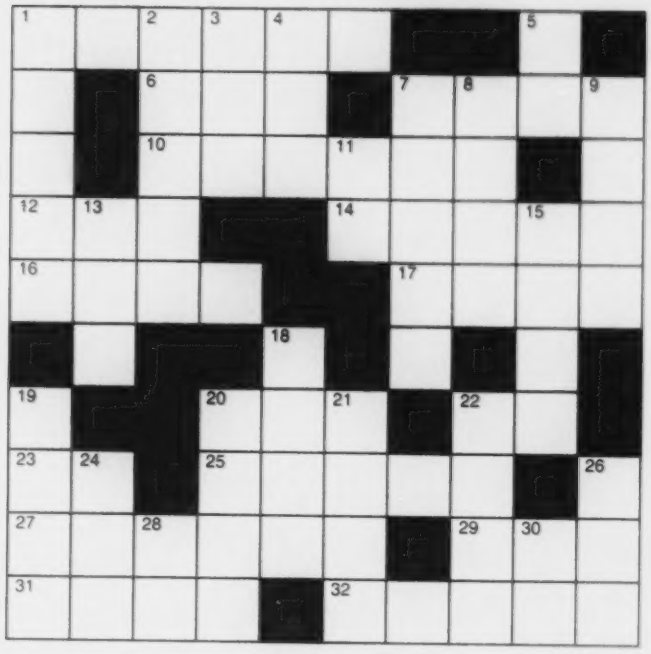
Across

1. Vehicle of communication; tongue; the speech (and writing) of a particular country, nation, or group
7. Form of *to be*
8. Movement of the head to signify agreement, understanding, or assent
9. Express in words; speak; state; utter
10. Better than average; suitable; proper, not bad
11. And so forth; and others of the same kind (abbr.)
13. You and me
14. Half of a laugh
15. A thought; mental picture
17. Put in a place or position; a group of related items; fixed, established, firm
18. Preposition
19. Patient; untiring; indefatigable

Down

1. Language specialist
2. Equally; in the same amount or degree; in the same manner; while
3. Complete a school course; obtain a degree
4. Article
5. Move; proceed
6. Teaches; develops the mind or character by training
9. Thus
12. Article
16. Organ of hearing
17. Observe; use the eyes; have the power of sight; understand

4. Collocations



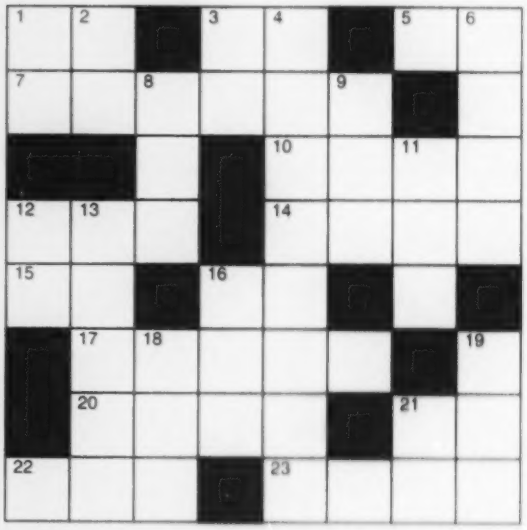
Across

1. Bread and _____
6. _____ and hers
7. Hat and _____
10. Come back
12. Cease to live
14. Shoes and _____
16. Always; at any time
17. Past tense of go
20. Past tense of *sit*
22. Exist
23. Preposition
25. Test
27. Macaroni and _____
29. Country in North America
31. A group that works or plays together
32. Short and _____

Down

1. _____ and groom
2. Number
3. Shirt and _____
4. Superlative ending
5. Ma and _____
7. A large group of people
8. One time
9. Examination
11. You and me
13. I have
15. Part of the leg
18. Automobiles
19. _____ and fiction
20. Part of a plant that comes up from the roots and supports the flowers and leaves
21. Fastens with a rope, cord, etc.
22. Color
24. Article
26. Chew and swallow
28. Each (abbr.)
30. Southeast (abbr.)

5. Abbreviations



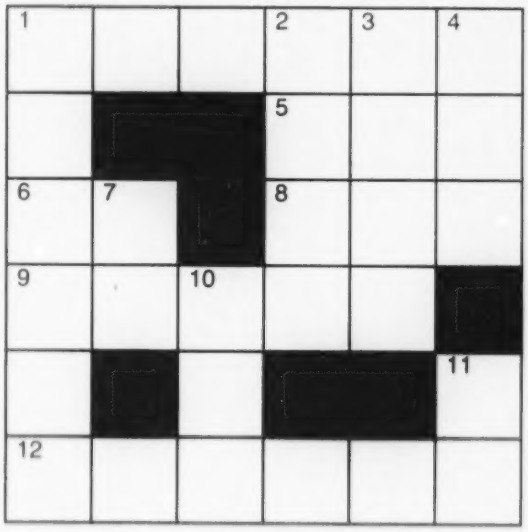
Across

1. In the location of; by; near
3. Exclamation of surprise
5. Abbreviation for *milliliter*
7. Small horselike animal; ass
10. Thing to sit on; bench; chair
12. Small container to drink from
14. Poetic word for *island*
15. Above; over
16. Abbreviation for *street* or *saint*
17. Loose outer garment
20. Past tense of *lend*
21. Thus; in such a way; very
22. Up to now; so far; still
23. Flat; smooth; level; uniform

Down

1. Abbreviation for *advertisement*
2. In the direction of; as far as
3. All right
4. Pause; delay momentarily
6. Stringed instrument
8. Short sleep during the day
9. Affirmative response
11. Everything or everyone; the whole quantity
12. Abbreviation for *company*
13. One's mother's brother
16. Male offspring
18. Allow
19. Past tense of *win*
21. Abbreviation for *southeast*

6. Language Learning



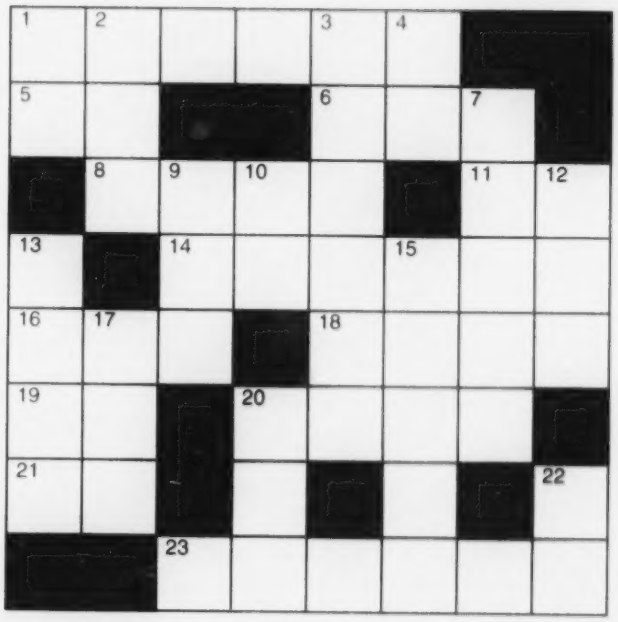
Across

1. A procedure or systematic plan of instruction; way; approach
5. Make a mistake; stray ("To _____ is human; to forgive, divine.")
6. Abbreviation for Maryland or doctor of medicine
8. A beam of light radiating from a bright object
9. An example that serves as a pattern for imitation
12. Up to date, contemporary, recent

Down

1. Mimicry—memorization (abbreviation)
2. In this place
3. Spoken; uttered by the mouth or in words
4. Not wet
7. Perform; act; execute; carry out (also used as a substitute verb and to express empahsis)
10. Past tense of 7 down
11. Indefinite article

7. Colors



Across

1. A sunny color
5. Abbreviation for *right*
6. A "hot" color
8. _____ cola
11. Abbreviation for *road*
14. Not as short
16. Showed the way; went before and guided
18. A dull color
19. United Nations (abbr.)
20. Appear to be true
21. Past-tense ending
23. Applies color to; tubes of different color

DOWN

1. 12 months (abbr.)
2. And the rest, and so on (abbr.)
3. A color/a fruit
4. You and I
7. Something imagined during sleep
9. Not new
10. Abbreviation for *company*
12. Not wet
13. The color of the sky
15. The color of grass
17. Opposite of *begin*
20. A body of water
22. You and me

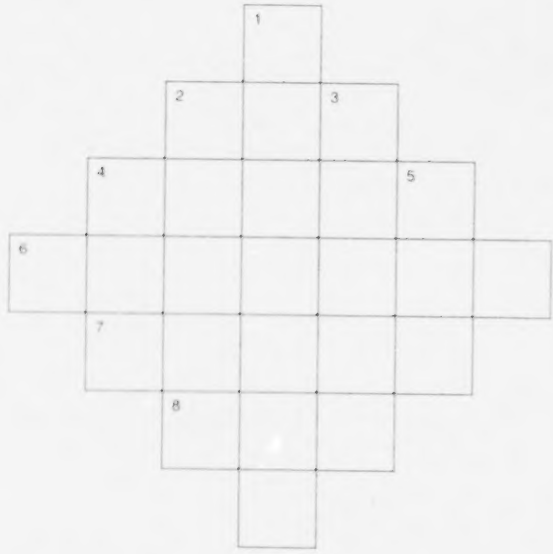
8. Diamonds

ACROSS

2 Petroleum
4 Means of transportation
6 A square that stands on its point
7 Rock
8 Being (philosophy)

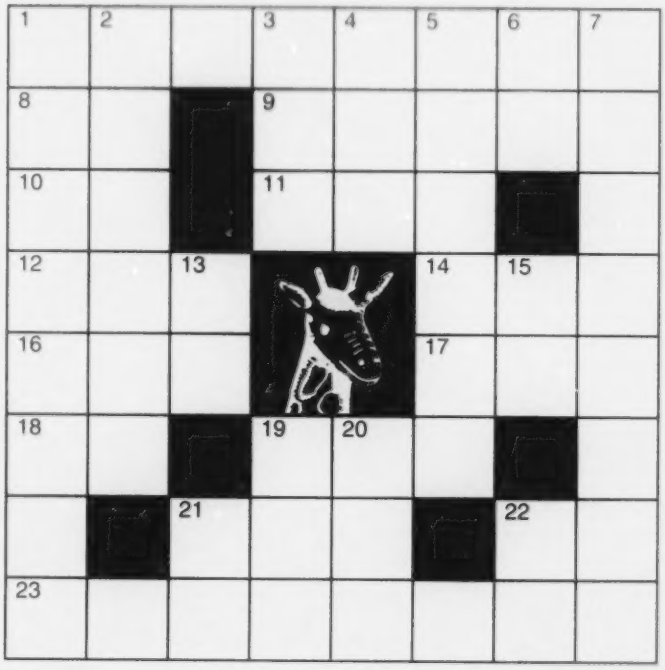
DOWN

1 A very hard precious stone
2 Give a formal speech
3 Jungle cats
4 It is (poetic)
5 Compass point



Challenging Crossword Puzzles

#9. Geoffrey Giraffe



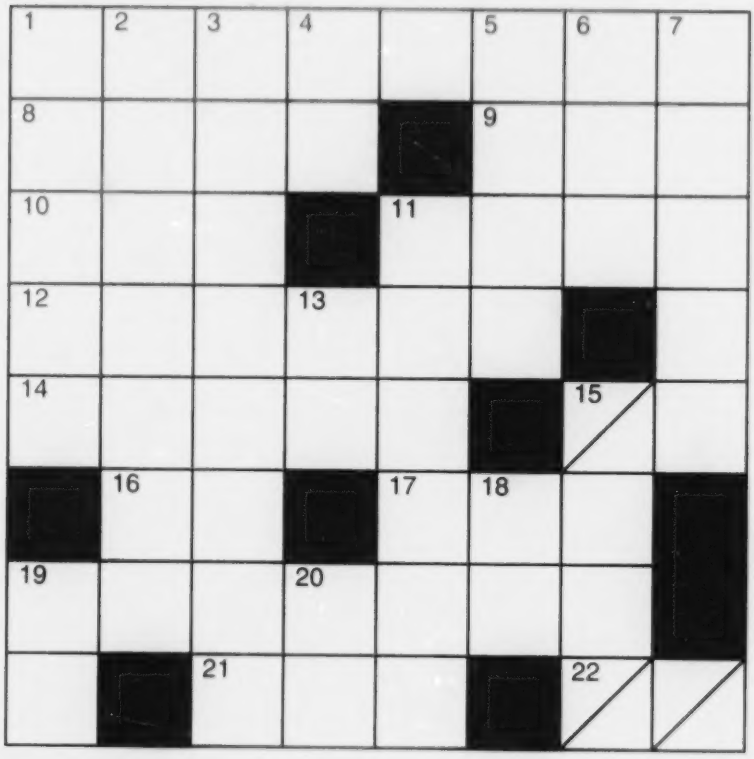
Across

1. Tallest animals
8. Ending of some past participles
9. Earliest; highest in rank; preceding all others in time, order, or importance
10. Preposition
11. Prefix meaning three
12. Preposition
14. An immeasurably long period of time; a geologic age; eternity
16. Cook in hot oil
17. A quick downward movement of the head, often indicating agreement or approval
18. Room (abbreviation)
19. Help; give assistance; something that provides assistance
21. Nothing
22. Indefinite article
23. Lasting through a twelve-month period

Down

1. Man's name
2. Tell; give information or knowledge to; make aware
3. Toward or in the rear part of a ship or aircraft; abbreviation for the part of day between noon and sunset
4. Kind of evergreen tree
5. Someone you like; a loved acquaintance; companion
6. Plural ending
7. Being in an upright position on one's feet; the position in which 1 across usually sleep; tolerating or bearing courageously
13. Railway (abbreviation)
15. Two-thirds of 100
19. Atmosphere; what we breathe; the invisible and odorless gases that surround the earth
20. Sick; indisposed; not well; ailing
21. North America (abbreviation); not applicable (abbreviation)
22. Article

10. Writing systems



For the starred entries, two sets of answers are possible, an "a" group and a "b" group. For these three words, all "a" answers or all "b" answers must be used together. Split squares permit recording of both sets.

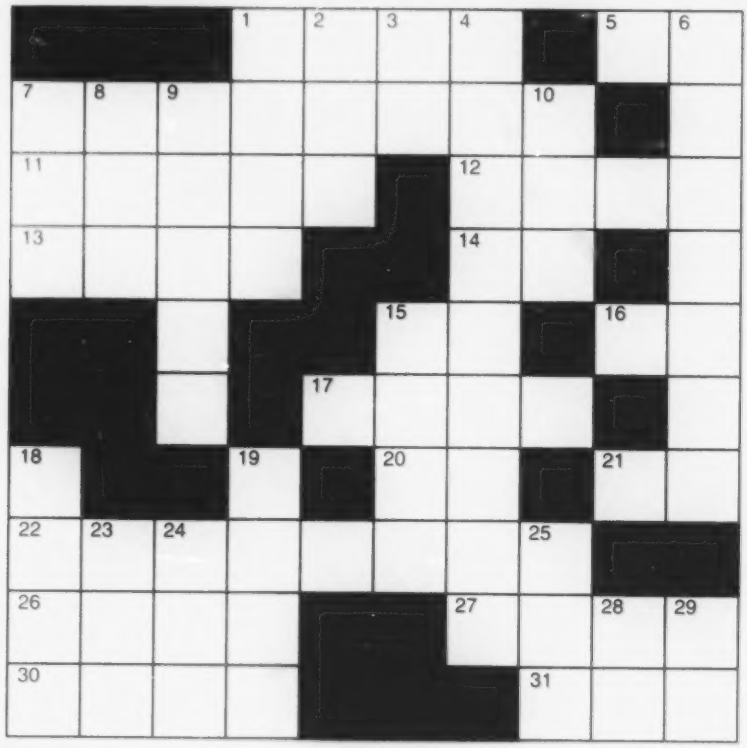
Across

1. The 26 letters
8. One who inherits
9. An individual
10. And so forth
11. Stair; to walk
12. Fasten (something to something)
14. 40–40 in tennis
15. a. Doctor of Medicine / b. Road (abbr.)*
16. Railroad (abbr.)
17. New (prefix)
19. Having no purpose or practical value; good for nothing
21. Distress signal
22. a. In the direction of / b. For example (abbr.)*

Down

1. Forward; in front; into the future
2. Elements of an alphabet
3. Things that preceded letters in ancient writing systems
4. Sixty minutes (abbr.)
5. The two
6. Compass point
7. Lukewarm
11. Places of actions; divisions of a play
13. Alternating current (abbr.)
15. a. Greatest amount or number / b.Flower*
18. Plural ending
19. You and me
20. Behold! (poetic)

11. American and British varieties of English



The answer to each asterisked clue is the British or American equivalent.

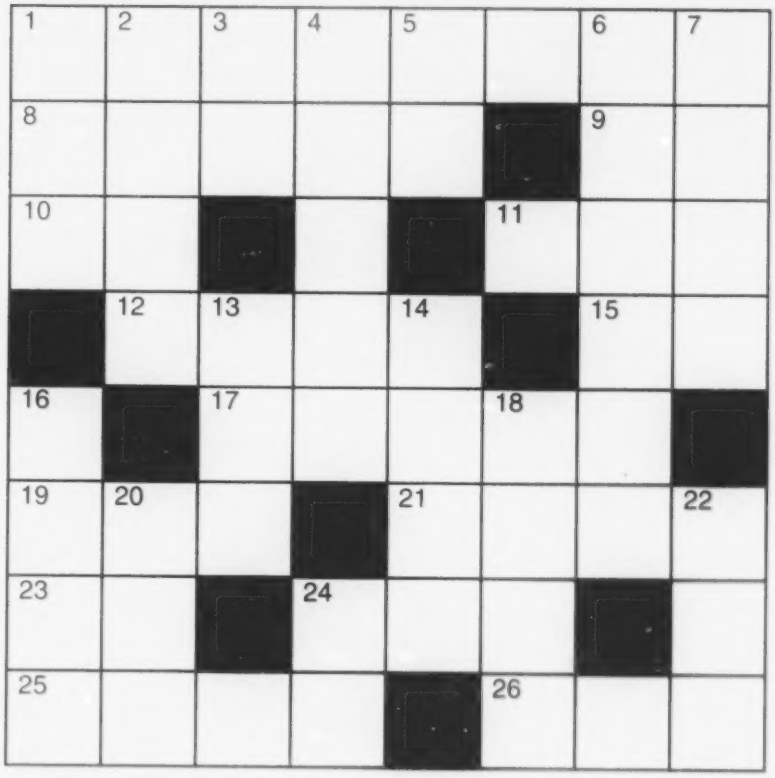
Across

1. Head coverings
5. Form of be
7. Slingshot*
11. River in Switzerland and France
12. With 6 down, hardware store*
13. Garden*
14. Northeast
15. What comes after DE
16. Suggested unisex pronoun
17. In addition; too
20. Exclamation of delight
21. We in the United States, objectively
22. Lift*
26. Underdone*
27. Subway*
30. Not shut
31. Open fabric made of string or thread

Down

1. End of the arm
2. Large monkey-like animal
3. What comes after RS
4. Catapult*
6. See 12 across
7. Weep
8. Exclamation of surprise and satisfaction or discovery
9. Flashlight*
10. Alternative for *-ter**
15. Apartment*
18. Nought*
19. Used for baking
23. The front part of a seated person; to drink like a dog
24. Before (*poetic*)
25. Ladder*
28. Exist
29. Extraterrestrial

12. The asterisk *



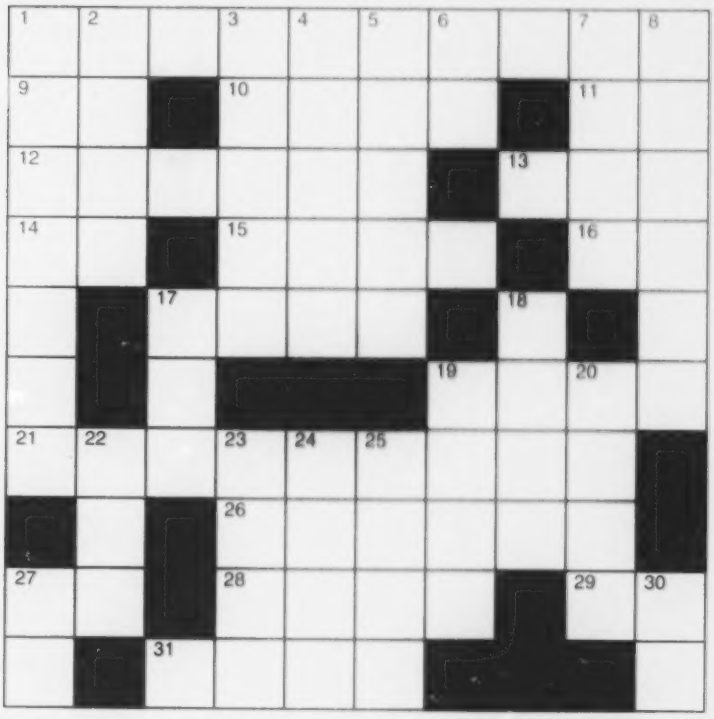
Across

1. A starlike sign used as a footnote marker
8. A sudden or violent out-break of wind, rain, snow, etc.
9. Preposition
10. Half a laugh
11. Any person or thing; unit
12. An enclosed space in a house or other building
15. Opposite of southwest (abbr.)
17. Put words on paper yesterday
19. Everything; everybody; completely
21. Was carried in a vehicle or on an animal
23. 1st person pronoun
24. 3rd person pronoun
25. Rim; border; cutting part of a knife
26. Negative words

Down

1. Powdery material left after a fire
2. Heavenly body
3. Preposition
4. Mistake
5. Room (abbr.)
6. Committed a moral fault
7. Joint in the middle of the leg
13. Bird with large eyes that sleeps during the day
14. A greater amount
16. Arrived
18. Having been pulled apart; ripped
20. Went first; showed the way
22. Chew and swallow food
24. That man

13. The seven continents



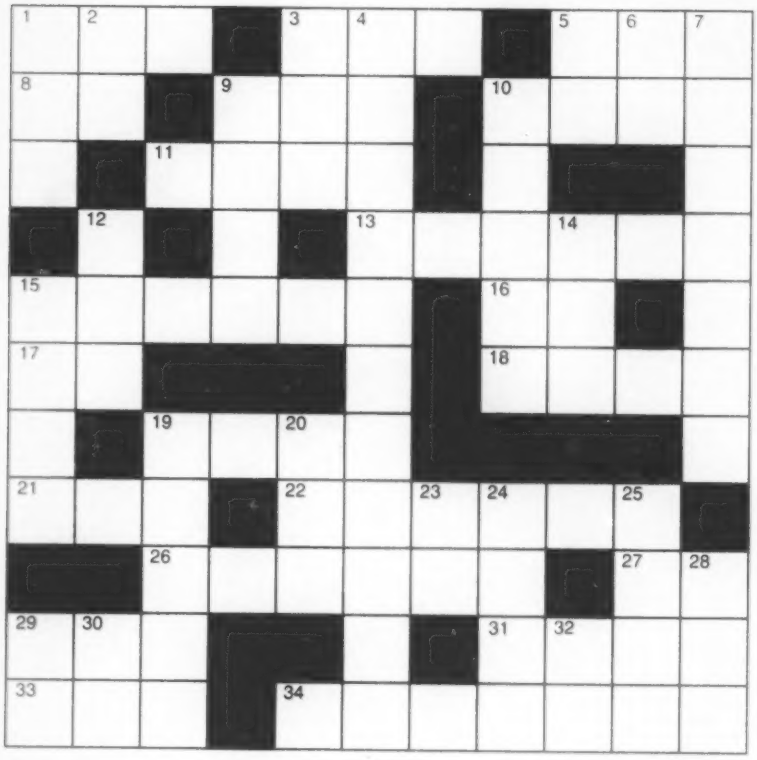
Across

1. Coldest continent
9. Missouri (abbr.)
10. Brave; confident
11. Preposition
12. Continent
13. Organ of hearing
14. Registered nurse (abbr.)
15. Intensifier
16. Eleven (Roman numeral)
17. Table for writing or studying
19. Sodium bicarbonate; carbonated water; soft drink
21. Island continent
26. Without difficulty; with facility; in a smooth, free manner
27. 1st person pronoun
28. Dry; lacking mositure; parched by heat
29. Thus, in the same manner or way; to a great extent or degree
31. Region; extent of space or surface; scope

Down

1. Second word of two continents
2. part of speech
3. Over; on top of; higher than
4. Heavy cords; twisted or braided strands of fiber
5. An office worker who keeps accounts and records; a salesperson in a store or shop
6. Touchdown (abbr.)
7. Persuade by kindness, patience, or flattery
8. Second largest continent
17. Negative prefix
18. Bubble up; reach the temperature where a liquid changes to gas
19. Past tense of *slide*
20. 24-hour periods
22. Employ, utilize
23. Pull apart or to pieces; damage by pulling sharply; drop of salty water coming from the eye
24. Unusual; uncommon; not often occurring
25. Largest continent
27. Possessive pronoun
30. Correlative of *either;* function word used to indicate an alternative

14. I♥NY



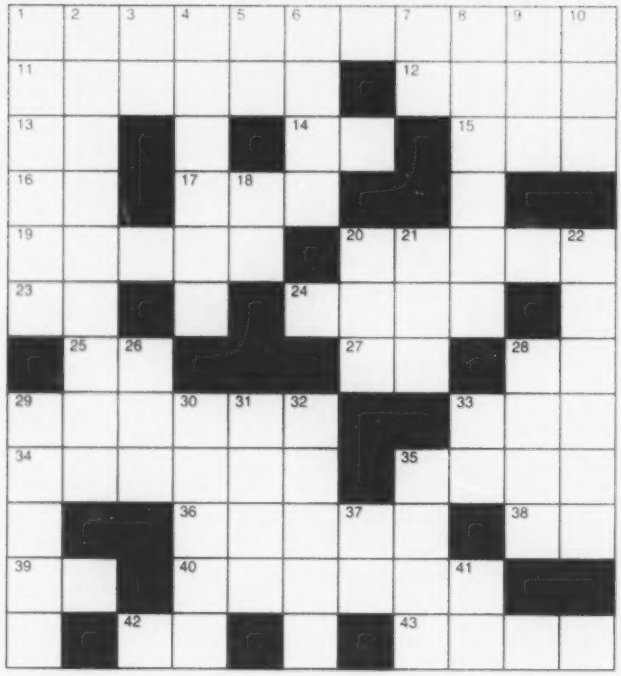
Across

1. Male human being
3. Head covering
5. Light brown
8. Like
9. Second person
10. Roof formed of rounded arches
11. Information about recent happenings
13. Twice ten
15. Not as empty
16. Thus
17. From a lower to a higher position
18. Heavenly body
19. Part of a wind-powered boat
21. Not high
22. Boundaries
26. Land surrounded by water
27. Each (abbr.)
29. That man
31. Act of lending; something lent
33. Belonging to it
34. Freedom

Down

1. Representation of the earth's surface
2. Correlative of *as*
3. In what manner
4. Winning yacht
5. Part of an infinitive
6. Form of *to be*
7. Largest U.S. city
9. Cry out loudly; cheer
10. Woman's clothing
12. Drinking vessel
14. Negative
15. Completely filled
19. Moves through water with arm and leg movements
20. Sick; not well
23. Middle of the alphabet
24. Not busy; unemployed
25. Thing to sit on
28. Some
29. Informal hello
30. That thing
32. Correlative of *either*

#15. Tools



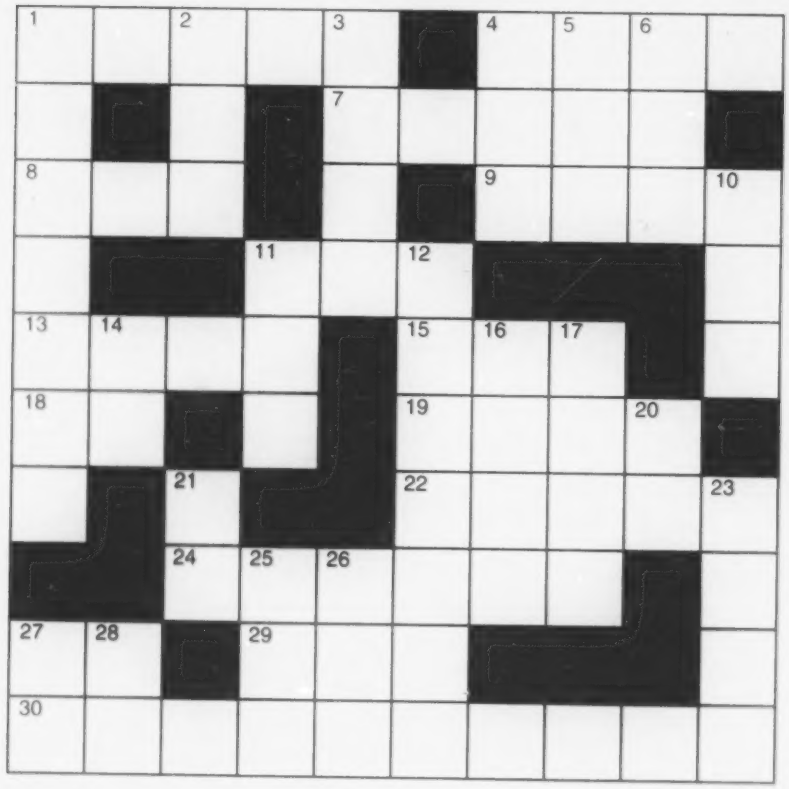
Across

1. A tool for tightening screws
11. A tool for pounding nails
12. Belonging to me
13. Alternative conjunction
14. Preposition of possession
15. Not even; strange
16. Opposite of *down*
17. Part of the mouth
19. A sour yellow fruit
20. What you use with 11 across
23. Abbreviation for 24 across
24. Opposite of *up*
25. Preposition of direction
27. You and I
28. Correlative of *either*
29. Says it isn't true
33. Contraction of *I have*
34. A tool for twisting and turning
35. In a new or different way; again (literary)
36. A tool for making holes; a language practice
38. What comes between Q and T
39. Pound (abbreviation)
40. A continent
42. A tool for chopping
43. A large, bright heavenly body; a five-pointed figure; a celebrated performer

Down

1. Past tense of *shall*; ought to
2. A person who uses tools to build cabinets
3. Room (abbreviation)
4. Use; give a job to
5. 1st person plural
6. Let fall
7. Contraction of *I am*
8. A musical instrument with four strings
9. Finish; the part that comes last
10. A color
18. Preposition of place; inside of
20. At this time
21. Deep reverence; wonder
22. What you use with 1 Across
26. Individual; a single unit
28. Above; on top of
29. To live (in a place); remain
30. An alphabetical list of things telling what page they may be found on
31. A light beige color
32. An article of clothing
33. Opposite of *out*
35. Mountains in Switzerland, Italy, France, and Austria
37. Look! (poetic)
41. Extraterrestrial (abbreviation)

16. Time



Across

1. Twelve of this make a 23 down
4. Seven days
7. A fruit pressed for its oil, especially in Mediterranean lands
8. A straight line of objects
9. Say
11. part of a circle
13. Opposite of 27 across
15. Make a mistake
18. Opposite of *yes*
19. Middle part of the day
22. The day after yesterday
24. Sixty of this make 3 down
27. Opposite of 13 across
29. Correlative of *neither*
30. The number of 3 down in a day

Down

1. The early part of the day
2. At this time
3. 30 across of this make a day
4. Mental resourcefulness; verbal ingenuity
5. Short for *evening*
6. A snake-like fish
10. Allow, permit
11. Past tense of *eat*
12. One hundred 23 down
14. Therefore
16. Underground part of a plant
17. Past tense of *ride*
20. North America (abbr.)
21. Contraction of *I am*
23. One one-hundredth of 12 down
25. Resting place for travelers
26. Negative
27. Not *he* or *she*
28. Opposite of NE

idioms

An idiom is an expression that cannot be understood literally. Even when a person knows the meaning of all the words and understands the grammar, the overall meaning of the idiom may be unclear. When students gain an understanding of American idioms, and the facility to use them, they are truly a part of the American English speech community. This may be one reason why so many students are interested in learning idioms.

Some idioms are so widely used that they are cliches—so commonplace in the spoken language that they are best avoided in writing for fear of suggesting an unoriginal mind! Cliches and proverbs, another form of idiomatic usage, do not vary in form, e.g., "Curiosity killed the cat" not "the dog" and "Too many cooks spoil the broth" not "the meal." Other idioms may allow for some form of variation, such as "to look (or feel) like death warmed over;" or in the form of taking on modifiers, e.g., "It was (beautiful) music to my ears."

TEACHING TECHNIQUES. The first two activities in this section can be done in pairs or as a whole class "mingling" activity. If the mingling format is used, the teacher will give each student a piece of paper with a portion of the idiom written upon it. The student's task is to locate the classmate who has the portion of the sentence which completes the idiom.

The "Fun Time" and "Idiomatic Antonyms" activities should be done in pairs with students identifying the correct idiom and providing a situation and a sentence in which it can be used.

The final activities in this section include (1) idioms that are semantically linked, as expressions relating to sports or food, and (2) idioms derived from specialized vocabulary items that have found their way into current, general American English usage.

Teachers can reproduce the information from these pages for class discussion and then extend the activity in the following ways:

1. Make a list of situations some of which would allow for the use of a designated idiom and others do not. Ask the students to determine whether the idiom applies to the situation or not,

   EXAMPLE: Which of the following statements illustrate the idiom "(to) be on target"—to achieve a desired goal; to be correct about something.

   A student who answers every question on a test correctly.
   ANSWER: She/he is on target.

   A basketball player who makes 15% of his shots.
   ANSWER: She/he is not on target.

2. Ask the students to work in pairs to identify situations and write sentences in which a particular idiom will apply.

3. Ask the students to personalize an idiom by giving examples of how the idiom applies to their lives.

4. Ask the students to consider whether there are expressions in their native language similar to the idiom in American English. If there are, ask them to describe the situations in which the expressions are used. Have them compare this with the usage of the American idiom.

Bird words

I. Match each word or phrase in the first column with the word or phrase in the second column that produces a common saying or idiom.

1. a bird in the hand	a. goose
2. birds of a feather	b. peace
3. bird-	c. the chicken or the egg
4. stool	d. is worth two in the bush
5. bird's eye	e. owl
6. to kill two birds	f. one's neck
7. silly	g. catches the worm
8. which came first	h. pigeon
9. he eats	i. with one stone
10. what's sauce for the goose	j. brain
11. wise old	k. like an ostrich
12. bury one's head in the sand	l. like a bird
13. crane	m. is sauce for the gander
14. dove of	n. view
15. the early bird	o. flock together

II. Match each word in the first column with its correct definition in the second column.

1. birdie	a. foolish, or inept person
2. chicken	b. objectionable or worthless
3. turkey	c. lower the head or body to avoid collision with an object
4. cuckoo	d. repeat by rote
5. duck	e. a golf score of one stroke less than par
6. parrot	f. timid; cowardly
7. for the birds	g. silly, a little crazy

Animal words

I. Match each word or phrase in the first column with the word or phrase in the second column that produces a proverb or idiom.

1. A barking dog	a. the dogs
2. Never look a gift horse	b. out of the bag
3. Curiosity killed	c. but you can't make him drink
4. Dog eat	d. lie
5. You can't teach an old dog	e. never bites
6. Let sleeping dogs	f. new tricks
7. When the cat's away	g. of a different color
8. Let the cat	h. horses
9. There's more than one way	i. hog
10. It's raining	j. dog
11. You may lead a horse to water	k. to skin a cat
12. Go to	l. in the mouth
13. Go whole	m. the mice will play
14. Hold your	n. cats and dogs
15. That's a horse	o. the cat

II. Match each word in the first column with its correct definition in the second column.

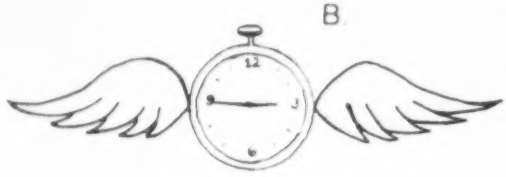
1. hog	a. to reveal secret information
2. buffalo	b. full of spite, malicious
3. bear	c. timid, fearful
4. mousey	d. nonsense
5. catty	e. to confuse or baffle
6. rat	f. to take selfishly
7. bull	g. something difficult

Fun time

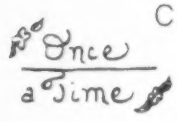
Each picture below illustrates a common English phrase, idiom, or proverb.

A.

B.

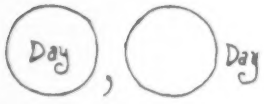


C.



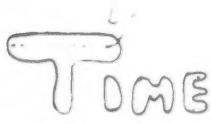
D.

E.



F.

G.



H.

Idiomatic antonyms

I. Add the right words to complete the pairs, and the initial letters reading downward will spell an appropriate word.

1. ◯ _ _ or NONE
2. ◯ _ or YES*
3. ◯ _ _ _ or FALSE
4. ◯ _ and OFF
5. ◯ _ _ or OLD
6. ◯ _ _ _ _ or OLD
7. ◯ _ _ _ or LESS
8. ◯ _ _ _ _ or LARGE

**The idiom is commonly in reverse order from what appears here.*

II. Complete the following idioms by adding a word that is opposite in meaning to the other word in the phrase.

1. Stop and _____
2. Lost and _____
3. Ups and _____
4. Do's and _____
5. Friend or _____
6. For better or _____
7. This or _____
8. Hit or _____
9. Heaven or _____
10. Win or _____

Talking sports

A number of idioms heard in everyday conversation began as phrases used in sports. The definitions given below show the meanings of these idioms in common parlance.

BASEBALL

have two strikes against one: to be in a position where success is unlikely (in baseball, one is "out" after three strikes)
She couldn't win. She had two strikes against her before she started.

keep your eye on the ball: to remain alert to the events occurring around one (*informal*)
If you want to succeed in this business, you have to keep your eye on the ball.

pinch-hit (for someone): to substitute for someone (in baseball, it refers to a substitute batter)
I won't be able to conduct the meeting. Would you be willing to pinch-hit for me?

go to bat for someone: to support or help someone; to stand up for or defend someone (*informal*)
He was being treated unfairly until his friends went to bat for him.

throw someone a curve: to confuse someone by doing something unexpected (in baseball, to pitch a curve to someone)
I had prepared a speech on the subject I thought they wanted, but they threw me a curve; they asked for a different topic.

out in left field: offbeat; unusual and eccentric (*informal*)
He has some pretty strange ideas. That one's really out in left field.

get to first base: to make a major advance with someone or something (*informal*)
I'd like to close this business deal, but I can't seem to get to first base with it.

touch base (or someone): to talk to someone; to confer with someone (*slang*)
I'll touch base with John on this question and let you know what he thinks.

SWIMMING

swim against the tide/current: to do the opposite of everyone else; to go against the the trend
She probably won't go along with the rest of us on this; she usually swims against the current.

make a splash: to receive widespread notice or publicity for a remarkable or successful action
He made quite a splash when he entered the business world.

go off the deep end: to become deeply involved (with someone or something) before one is ready; to follow one's emotions into a situation (*informal*) (refers to going into a swimming pool at the deep end—rather than the shallow end—and finding oneself in deep water. Applies especially to falling in love.)
I hope he'll think carefully about making that decision instead of just going off the deep end.

BOXING

pull one's punches: to hold back in one's criticism (usually in the negative) (*slang*) (in boxing, to strike with light blows to enable the other boxer to win)
I didn't pull any punches. I told him just what I thought of him.

beat someone to the punch: to do something before someone else does it.
I was going to write an article on that subject, but someone beat me to the punch.

hit someone below the belt: to do something unfair or unsporting to someone (*informal*) (in boxing, a blow below the belt line is not permitted)
We shouldn't spread that gossip about him; that would be hitting below the belt.

blow-by-blow account/description: a detailed description (of an event)
She gave us a blow-by-blow account of their argument.

BILLIARDS

behind the eight ball: in a highly disadvantageous or baffling position (*informal*)
I don't know how I'm going to get out of this situation; I'm really behind the eight ball.

TENNIS

the ball's in your court: it's you turn (or responsibility) to take action
I've done my part of this project. Now the ball's in your court.

Most of these definitions are from NTC's American Idioms Dictionary, ed. Richard A. Spears. Lincolnwood, Ill.: National Textbook Co., 1987.

Ups and downs of English

Many phrasal (two-word) verbs end in *up* or *down*. In addition to their more literal meanings, a number of these have idiomatic meanings that are not readily apparent from the individual meanings of the two elements.

TURN UP/TURN DOWN

turn up: (1) to appear. *Three days after he left Portland, John turned up in San Francisco.*
(2) to increase the volume of something, such as a light, heat, a radio, etc. *Please turn up the radio a little, so that we can hear it better.*

turn down: (1) to refuse or deny someone. *I applied for a job there, but they turned me down.*
(2) to lower the volume or amount of something, such as hear, water, air pressure, a radio, etc. *Please turn down the heat, it's much too warm in here.*

BREAK UP/BREAK DOWN

break up: (1) to disintegrate; come apart. *The meeting broke up when the shocking news was received.*
(2) to end a romance. *Alice broke up with her boyfriend last week.*
(3) to be convulsed with laughter. *The comedian was so funny we just broke up when we saw his act.*

breakdown: (1) to fall apart; stop operating. *We couldn't continue our trip because our car broke down.*
(2) to lose control of one's emotions; to have a nervous collapse. *When Tim heard the terrible news, he broke down and wept.*
(3) to tear down; to destroy. *They got an axe and broke down the door.*

CRACK UP/CRACK DOWN

crack up: (1) to go crazy (*slang*). *After suffering so many setbacks, Arthur finally cracked up.*
(2) to make someone laugh. *Johnny told a couple of jokes that really cracked me up.*

crack down: (1) to be strict with someone or something. *The teacher is cracking down on students who came in late.*
(2) to enforce a rule or law more strenuously. *They're beginning to crack down on drivers who exceed the speed limit.*

WIND UP/WIND DOWN

wind up: (1) to tighten the spring of something such as a clock or mechanical toy. *If you wind that clock up all the way, it will run for eight days.*
(2) to conclude or bring to an end. *We hope to be able to wind up the meeting by about three o'clock.*
(3) to end in a particular place or state or by having to do something. *After exploring all the other possibilities, he wound up in Los Angeles.*

wind down: (1) to decrease or diminish. *Things are very busy now, but I think they'll wind down soon.*
(2) to come gradually to an end. *The party began to wind down at about 10 o'clock.*

LIVE IT UP/LIVE IT DOWN

live it up: to have an exciting time; to do what one pleases, regardless of the cost; to please oneself. *When I go on my vacation, I'm really going to live it up.*

live it down: to overcome the shame or embarrassment of something. *I was so embarrassed about what happened at the party; I'll never be able to live it down.*

RUN UP/RUN DOWN

run up: to add to a bill; to add many charges to one's account. *Ellen ran up such a big bill at that store last month that she doesn't have enough money to pay for it.*

run down: to run out of power or energy. *When your watch runs down, you have to wind it or put a new battery in it.*

DRESS UP/DRESS DOWN

dress up: to wear fancy or formal clothes. *The children got all dressed up for the party.*

dress down: (1) to reprimand or scold. *My boss really dressed me down* (or, *gave me a dressing down*) *for not getting that order in on time.*
(2) to dress informally or casually. *We were told to dress down for the party; it was not going to be a formal affair.*

TEAR UP/TEAR DOWN

tear up: (1) to rip something into pieces. *Jean angrily tore up Tom's letter and threw the pieces into the fireplace.*
(2) to cause someone much grief (*slang*). *The news of Alvin's death really tore her up; she just cried and cried.*

tear down: (1) to criticize or degrade someone. *Our new boss is always tearing somebody down; the morale in the office is at an all-time low.*
(2) to dismantle or destroy something. *They're going to tear down that old building to make way for the new highway that's being planned.*

BACK UP/BACK DOWN

back up: (1) to cause someone or something to more backwards or back. *If you'll back up* (*your car*) *a little, we'll be able to park in front of you.*
(2) to support someone or something. *I think that's a good idea; I'll back you up when you present it at the meeting.*

back down: (1) to yield to a person or thing. *George backed down from supporting the plan when he saw that everyone else was against it.*
(2) to fail to carry through on a threat. *Richard had boasted that he would fight anyone who opposed him, but he backed down when he realized he couldn't win.*

American English: A happy marriage

According to an age-old tradition, a bride should wear at her wedding ceremony "something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue." We have borrowed this tradition to examine idiomatic usage in American English.

SOMETHING OLD . . .

The following "old" words are Latin abbreviations of Latin words used in English (and some other languages). Except where otherwise indicated, the meaning given is the literal translation of the Latin word or phrase.

A.D. (anno Domini) = in the year of our Lord

A.M. (ante meridiem) = before midday; morning

ca. (circa) = about, approximately

cf. (confer) = compare

e.g. (exempli gratia) = for the sake of example

et al. (et alii) = and others (people)

etc. (et cetera) = and other things; and the rest

ibid. (ibidem) = in the same place (used in writing to indicate further reference to the book, chapter, etc. cited just before)

i.e. (id est) = that is

lb. (libra) = pound

N.B. (nota bene) = note well

op. cit. (opere citato) = in the work cited

P.M. (post meridiem) = after midday; afternoon

P.S. (postscriptum) = written after (something written after the signature line of a letter, or added to a book or article)

[sic] (thus, so) = [thus] (used to show that a quoted passage, often containing some error, is precisely reproduced)

SOMETHING NEW . . .

The following are new words, new combinations, or new usages.

ace: to earn the grade "A" on an examination
Because he studies hard, John aced the exam.

number crunching: the performance of long, complex, often repetitive, mathematical calculations
After some intense number crunching he was able to solve the mathematical problem.

nonstarter: someone or something that is not productive or effective
That project turned out to be a nonstarter.

laid-back: having a relaxed style or character
The summer-school students had a much more laid-back attitude than the full-time students.

gut course: a course or class (as in college) that is easily passed
Bill took several gut courses because he didn't have enough time to study.

anchorman: a broadcaster who introduces reports by other broadcasters and usually reads the news (also anchorperson, anchorwoman, or anchor)
There's a new anchorman on the ABC News program.

SOMETHING BORROWED . . .

The following words have been taken into English from native Alaskan and Australian languages.

igloo (*Esk.*): an Eskimo house usually made of sod, wood, or stone when permanent, or of blocks of snow in the shape of a dome when built for temporary purposes

kayak (*Esk.*): an Eskimo canoe made of a frame covered with skins except for a small opening in the center, and propelled by a double-bladed paddle.

parka (*Aleut from Russia*): a hooded fur pullover garment for arctic wear (now, any hooded jacket to protect from cold and wind)

mukluk (*Esk.*): a sealskin or reindeer-skin boot worn by Eskimos

boomerang (*native Australian*): a bent or angular throwing club designed so that it soars or curves in flight so as to return near the thrower

kangaroo (*Australian*): any of various herbivorous leaping marsupial mammals of Australia, New Guinea, and adjacent islands

koala (*Australian*): an Australian arboreal marsupial about two feet long that has large hairy ears, gray fur, and sharp claws

wallaby (*native Australian*): any of various small or medium-sized, usually brightly colored, kangaroos

SOMETHING BLUE . . .

The following are a few of the many English idioms that contain the word blue.

feeling blue: feeling low in spirits, melancholy

the blues: a song, often of lamentation, characterized by 12-bar phrases, 3-line stanzas in which the words of the second line repeat those of the first, and continual occurrence of blue or sad notes in melody and harmony

until one is blue in the face: to do (or deal with) something or someone for an exasperatingly long time, usually to no avail

black and blue: darkly discolored from blood effused by bruising

blue law: a statute regulating work, commerce, and amusements on Sundays

blue jeans: pants made of blue denim

blueprint: a photographic print in white on a blue background used especially for copying maps, mechanical drawings, and architects' plans

once in a blue moon: very rarely

O.K.O.K.O.K.O.K.O.K.O.K.O.K.O.K.O.K.O.K.O.K.O.K.

More than 30 years ago Bergen and Cornelia Evans, in their book *A Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage* (Random House 1957), said of the word *O.K.*: "Originating in the United States, O.K. has spread to almost every country on earth. There is something about the phrase as a term of assent or agreement that gives it universal appeal. It is probably today the most widely used single term in human speech . . . used a billion times a day in informal speech and business notes and letters."

Whence comes this word that has become, even much more during the past 30 years, a universal term for assent or approval?

Its origins are not certain. The most widely accepted explanation is that it was the name of a partisan political organization, the "O.K. Club," formed in 1840 to support the candidacy of Martin Van Buren, the eighth president of the United States, in his try for a second term in office. The letters *O.K.* stood for Old Kinderhook, the small town in New York State where Van Buren was born.

Another possible origin of *O.K.* may be found in the initial letters of a humorous spelling (in vogue in the late 1830s) of the phrase "all correct"—that is, *oll korrect*. It is, in fact, quite possible that its widespread use in popular speech arose as a result of the combination of these two early uses, both fostering the signification of "good" or "favorable."

Some linguists have thought that *O.K.* is from the Choctaw Indian word *okeh*, meaning "it is so." It has even been explained as the initials of Obadiah Kelly, a mythical railroad clerk who put his initials on all the packages he accepted as shipment.

Whatever its origin, the use of *O.K.* as an informal expression for something good persisted and spread, first in the United States and then abroad. This rapid spread may be at least partly attributable to the invention of the telegraph in 1844 and the comparative ease of tapping out the Morse Code equivalent of *O.K.* in place of the considerably longer *all right*.

The most usual spelling is the one we have used above: *O.K.* other spellings are *OK* and *okay* (earlier *okeh* was also sometimes used). When employed as a borrowed term in other languages it is often spelled in one of the above ways; however, it is also sometimes incorporated into the spelling or writing systems of the foreign language. Thus we find, among many others, *oké* in Dutch and Indonesian, **О'кей in Russian, and in Chinese and Japanese, respectively, O and K**.

Like many other English words, *O.K.* can be used as various parts of speech without change of form, always with the meaning of approval or endorsement, or that something is satisfactory, acceptable, or correct. It is used most often as an interjection: *A. You'll do this now, won't you? B. O.K.* As an adjective: *He was hurt pretty badly when he fell, but he's O.K. now* or *That's an O.K. idea; let's do it.* As a noun: *We'll have to get the boss's O.K. on this.* As a verb: *I'll O.K. your proposal if you make the changes I suggested.* As an adverb: *The radio is working O.K. now.*

A Few More Initial-Letter Words

A-OK	very definitely OK
ASAP	as soon as possible
B and B	bed and breakfast (an establishment [as an inn or guesthouse] offering lodging and breakfast)
BLT	a bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwhich
CD	compact disc (a small plastic optical disc, usually containing a recorded disc)
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid (a nucleic acid found in the nucleus of a cell and playing a vital part in heredity)
LP	long playing (a microgroove phonograph record designed to be played at 33 1/3 revolutions per minute)
MVP	most valuable player (in team sports such as football, baseball, basketball, etc.)
PA	public address (system)—a system for amplifying sound by means of microphones, usually for public speaking
PC	personal computer (a small computer for use by and individual or small business)
PE	physical education
RN	registered nurse
RV	recreational vehicle (a vehicle [as a motor home or trailer] equipped for use in camping
SOS	1. an internationally recognized signal of distress in radio code • • • – – – • • • used especially by ships calling for help; 2. a call or request for help or rescue
SST	supersonic transport (a supersonic transport airplane)
TA	teaching assistant (usually, a graduate student at a university, who teaches classes part-time but does not have regular faculty status)
VCR	videocassette recorder (a videotape recorder that uses videocassettes)
VTR	videotape recorder

American English: A colorful language

RED

caught red-handed: found in the very act of a crime, or in possession of self-incriminating evidence

red-eye: a commercial airline flight between two distant points that departs late at night and arrives early in the morning

red-faced: blushing or flushed with embarrassment, anger, etc.

red-carpet treatment: the kind of courtesy or deference shown to persons of high station

in the red: operating at a loss or being in debt

paint the town red: celebrate boisterously, especially by making a round of stops at bars and nightclubs

see red: become very angry

red-hot: very hot; creating much excitement or demand; violent; intensely excited or enthusiastic; very fresh or new

red tape: excessive formality and routine required before official action can be taken

red-letter day: a memorable, especially important or happy day

redcap: a baggage porter at a railroad station

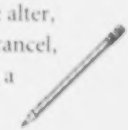
redneck: a bigot or reactionary, especially from the rural working class

BLUE

out of the blue: suddenly and unexpectedly

talk a blue streak: talk continuously, rapidly, or interminably

blue-pencil: alter, abridge, or cancel, as in editing a manuscript



true-blue: unwaveringly loyal or faithful

bluegrass music: country music that is polyphonic in character and is played on unamplified string instruments, with emphasis especially on the solo banjo

blue-ribbon: of superior quality or prominence

WHITE

white heat: intense heat; a stage of intense activity, excitement, feeling, etc.

white hot: in a state of white heat

white lie: a minor, polite, or harmless lie

wave the white flag: give up; surrender; yield

white-tie: requiring that guests wear formal attire, especially that men wear white bow ties with formal evening dress

whitewash: (*noun*) anything, such as deceptive words or actions, used to cover up or gloss over faults, errors, or wrongdoing; (*verb*) conduct such a cover-up

PURPLE

purple prose: writing that calls attention to itself because of its obvious use of certain effects, as exaggerated sentiment or pathos

BLACK

blacklist: (*noun*) a list of persons under suspicion or disfavor; (*verb*) put a person on such a list

blackmail: (*noun*) payment extorted by intimidation, such as threats of injurious revelations; (*verb*) extort money by the use of threats

black-tie: requiring that guests wear semi-formal attire, especially that men wear black bow ties with tuxedos or dinner jackets

black market: the buying and selling of goods in violation of legal price controls; also, the place where such buying and selling is done

black sheep (of the family): a person who causes shame or embarrassment because of his/her deviation from the standards of the group

blackball: exclude socially; vote against or reject a candidate

black box: an electronic device, such as a flight recorder, that can be removed from an aircraft as a single package

ROSE

rose-colored glasses: a cheerful or optimistic view of things, usually without valid basis

rosy: bright or promising; cheerful or optimistic

GREEN

greenhorn: an untrained, inexperienced, or naive person

green around the gills: having a sickly appearance; pale

get the green light: receive permission or authorization to do something

green with envy: very jealous

green-eyed monster: jealousy

green thumb: an exceptional aptitude for gardening or for growing plants successfully

PINK

tickled pink: greatly pleased

pink slip: a notice of dismissal from one's job

in the pink: healthy; in very good condition

pinkie: the little finger

YELLOW

have a yellow streak: be cowardly

Most of the definitions are from *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, Second Edition Unabridged.

THERE'S MUSIC IN OUR SPEECH

SING THE BLUES
to be disappointed or disillusioned. *Jim is singing the blues since he broke up with Elizabeth.*

PLAY SECOND FIDDLE TO SOMEONE
to be subordinate to someone. *Carol resigned from the company because she was tired of playing second fiddle to George.*

PLAY BY EAR
to play a piece of music without looking at the notes. *I can play all the popular songs by ear.*
to perform without prior preparation. *We haven't had time to prepare for the meeting. We'll have to play it by ear.*

MUSIC TO MY EARS
good news; information that makes someone happy. *When my boss told me about my promotion, it was music to my ears.*

TOOT ONE'S OWN HORN; BLOW ONE'S OWN HORN
to praise oneself; to brag. *Mary is always tooting (blowing) her own horn. She forgets that other people have a role in our company's success.*

JAZZ SOMETHING UP
to make something more interesting or lively. *Tom jazzed up his gray suit with a red tie.*

SOAP OPERA
an overly dramatic and emotional story broadcast regularly on the radio or television. *Mary's day was not complete unless she saw her favorite soap opera.*

IT'S NOT OVER TILL THE FAT LADY SINGS
to not speculate about something until it is completed. *Though her policies were criticized, and her election in doubt, the candidate reminded the news correspondents that it's not over till the fat lady sings.*

CHANGE ONE'S TUNE
to change one's opinions or manner. *John was critical of Anne's judgment until she was made his supervisor. Now he has changed his tune and agrees with everything she does.*

OUT OF TUNE
not in agreement. *His suggestions were out of tune with reality.*

CALL THE TUNE
make decisions; decide what is to be done. *A lot of people do not get along with Carol. She always wants to call the tune.*
The person who is in charge is the one who makes the final decision. *S/he who pays the piper calls the tune.*

MARCH TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER
to follow one's own ideas rather than being influenced by the group. *Dick isn't going to support us; he always marches to a different drummer.*

DRUM UP BUSINESS
influence people to buy something. *The big advertisement in today's newspaper should drum up business.*

OFF-BEAT
unusual, not typical. *He dressed in an off-beat manner.*

TUNE OUT
ignore someone or something. *I tuned out when the speaker started quoting statistics.*

TUNE IN
set the television control to receive a program. *I tune in to the news every evening.*

TUNE UP
adjust an engine so that it runs correctly. *I needed a mechanic to tune up my car.*
to adjust instruments in an orchestra so that each musician is in harmony with one another. *The orchestra tuned up before the concert began.*

TO BEAT THE BAND
very much; very fast. *The police car was speeding down the highway to beat the band.*

JUMP ON THE BANDWAGON
take a popular position; join the group that has the greatest popularity. *The politicians jumped on the bandwagon when they saw the governor was so popular.*

FACE THE MUSIC
accept the unpleasant consequences for one's actions. *Jimmy broke his neighbor's window with his baseball. Now he's got to face the music.*

ALL THAT JAZZ
et cetera; and so forth. *The movie was filled with kissing and hugging and all that jazz.*

JAZZY
lively; active. *Phil and Mary throw jazzy parties. Hours pass like minutes at their house.*

Books in language

HERE ARE SOME IDIOMS THAT RELATE TO BOOKS:

turn over a new leaf: to forget the past and start again with the intention of doing better. *I didn't want to keep making those same mistakes, so I decided to turn over a new leaf. Now everything is better.*

read someone like a book: to understand someone very well. *I know just why he did that; I can read him like a book.*

read between the lines: to infer something (from something); to see what is really meant by what is written or said. *Don't believe everything you hear; you have to read between the lines.*

you can't tell a book by its cover: You can't tell what a person or thing is like from its outward appearance. *He look like he'd be able to do the job, but I'm not sure: you can't tell a book by its cover.*

by the book: according to the rules (informal). *He doesn't deviate from the prescribed procedures even a little bit; he always goes by the book.*

throw the book at: to charge or convict (someone) with as many crimes as possible. *We thought he'd get off with a lighter sentence, but they really threw the book at him.*

leaf through: to look through (a book, magazine, or newspaper) without reading it carefully. *Why don't you just leaf through this book to see whether you want to buy it?*

have one's nose in a book: to be reading a book to read books all the time. *Every time I see him, he has his nose in a book.*

hit the books: to begin to study; to study (slang). *If you want to pass that test tomorrow, you'd better hit the books tonight.*

use every trick in the book: to use every method possible (informal). *We used every trick in the book and we still couldn't get it done.*

crack a book: to open a book to study (slang; almost always used in the negative). *I passed that test without even cracking a book!*

in one's book: in one's opinion (informal). *In my book that's the very best way to do it.*

one for the books: a record-breaking act. *I've never seen it done so fast. That's one for the books!*

SOME WORDS OR PHRASES THAT CONTAIN THE WORD "BOOK" DO NOT REFER TO BOOKS IN THE USUAL SENSE:

book passage (a flight, etc.): to arrange in advance for something; make reservations.

booking office: an office where tickets are sold (e.g., at a railway station).

book of (matches, stamps, etc.): a collection of things fastened together, having its own cover.

book value: the value of something as shown on bookkeeping records, as opposed to its market value (or current selling price).

bookmaker (or bookie): a person who collects bets before a race and pays the winners.

book: to leave depart (slang). *I'm bored with this party; let's book.*

Food for thought

in apple-pie order: very well organized; in very good order (informal). *Her desk is so neat; everything's always in apple-pie order.*

bring home the bacon: to earn a salary (informal). *I need to get a job; now I'm the one who has to bring home the bacon.*

full of beans: full of nonsense; talking nonsense (slang). *Don't pay any attention to what Frank says; he's full of beans.*

not know beans (about something): to know nothing about something (slang). *Sam doesn't know beans about using a computer.*

not worth a hill of beans: worthless (informal). *Their advice isn't worth a hill of beans.*

spill the beans: to reveal a secret or a surprise by accident (cliché). *We wanted the party to be a surprise, but William spilled the beans and spoiled it.*

beef something up: to make something stronger (informal or slang). *We should beef up the program by adding an advanced course.*

bread and butter: (a person's) livelihood or income. *I don't especially like doing this job, but it's my bread and butter.*

know which side one's bread is buttered on: to know what is most advantageous for one (cliché). *Richard will do anything to please the boss; he knows which side his bread is buttered on.*

too many cooks spoil the soup/broth/stew: a proverb meaning that too many people trying to manage something simply spoil it. *Several people were trying to manage that program, and it didn't turn out well. I guess too many cooks spoiled the soup.*

chew the fat: to chat informally with close friends (slang). *We didn't get much done this morning. An old friend came by, and we spent a lot of time chewing the fat.*

the fat is in the fire: a proverb meaning that serious trouble has broken out. *The boss found out that the reports weren't turned in on time. Now the fat's in the fire!*

half a loaf is better than none: a proverb meaning that having part of something is better than having nothing. *I was hoping they would pay me more than that, but at least I have a job now; I guess half a loaf is better than none.*

know one's onions: to have a good knowledge about something one is supposed to know (informal or slang). *I think Mary will do a good job; she really knows her onions.*

salt something away: to store something for future use (originally referred to preserving food and storing it). *Mr. Smith is saving money to use after he retires from work; he salts away $50 every week.*

worth one's salt: worth one's salary. *Any worker worth his salt would do a better job than that.*

in a stew (about someone or something): bothered or upset about someone or something (informal). *What's Bill in a stew about this morning? Did the boss find mistakes in his work again?*

out of the frying pan into the fire: from a bad situation to a worse situation (cliché). *Kim's situation is bad enough now, but if he quits his job, he'll go from the frying pan into the fire.*

have other fish to fry: to have other, or more important, things to do. *I just can't be bothered dealing with these details; I have other fish to fry.*

hash something over: to discuss something in great detail (informal). *We've already talked about that matter several times; there's no point in hashing it all over again.*

fine kettle of fish: a mess; a very unsatisfactory situation (cliché). *Our guests would arrive at any minute and all the electricity had gone off; that was a fine kettle of fish!*

the pot calling the kettle black: (an instance of) someone with a fault accusing someone else of having the same fault (cliché). *How can Jim accuse Lisa of laziness? That's the pot calling the kettle black.*

simmer down: to become calmer and quieter (informal). *Things have been so hectic here this week; we hope they'll simmer down after the holidays.*

Food for second thoughts

(*as*) *cool as a cucumber:* calm; not agitated
Even in the pressure of the competition, Herbert remained as cool as a cucumber.

have your cake and eat it too: to have the advantage of both alternatives
You'll have to decide whether you want to go the party or study to pass the exam. You can't have your cake and eat it too.

go bananas: (*slang*) to go crazy or become silly
We were going along all right until all these changes came upon us. When the last one happened, we just went bananas.

(*as*) *slow as molasses* (*in January*): extremely slow
When Ralph is doing something he likes, he's pretty quick, but in doing these other things he's slow as molasses in January.

in a pickle: in trouble; in a mess
Now Sarah has really got herself in a pickle. She accepted two invitations for the same evening.

a lemon: (*slang*) something defective or unsatisfactory
Paul thought he was getting a bargain when he bought that car, but it turned out to be a lemon.

(*as*) *sweet as sugar:* very sweet or good-natured
Melinda has a pretty disagreeable disposition most of the time, but she can be as sweet as sugar when she wants to be.

take the cake: to surpass all others, especially in some undesirable quality
Now that really takes the cake. I've never heard such an impossible demand!

piece of cake: (*slang*) very easy
Oh, that's a piece of cake. I can do it without even trying.

like* (*two*) *peas in a pod: very much alike; almost identical
Bill and Steve have all the same likes and dislikes and ways of doing things. They're just like two peas in a pod.

take something with a grain of salt: to listen to a story or an explanation with considerable doubt
Walter has a very persuasive way of talking, but you'd better take what he says with a grain of salt.

(*as*) *easy as pie:* very easy; simple
Making that dress with my new sewing machine was as easy as pie.

cut the mustard: to achieve the standard of performance necessary for success (usually used in the negative)
Henry hoped he'd be able to succeed in that job, but he just couldn't cut the mustard.

apple of someone's eye: someone's favorite person or thing
Little Audrey's grandfather talks about her all the time. She's the apple of his eye.

sell like hotcakes: to be very popular and sought after (*cliché*)
Gerald should be happy about the success of his new book. It's selling like hotcakes.

packed* (*in*) *like sardines: packed very tightly (*cliché*)
The tour bus was so crowded we could hardly breathe. We were packed like sardines.

(*as*) *flat as a pancake:* very flat
Linda was late to the meeting because she couldn't drive her car. One of the front tires had a puncture and was as flat as a pancake.

put all one's eggs in one basket: to risk everything at once (*cliché*)
If you want to be sure of being accepted by a university, you'd better apply to several different ones. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Communicating with animals

busy as a bee
blind as a bat
hungry as a bear
busy as a beaver
free as a bird
happy as a clam
sick as a dog
smart as a fox
innocent as a lamb
happy as a lark
quiet as a mouse
stubborn as a mule
wise as an owl
strong as an ox
proud as a peacock

go ape over something: (*slang*) to be extremely enthusiastic about something

eager beaver: a person who is excessively diligent or overly zealous

for the birds: (*slang*) useless or worthless; not to be taken seriously

like a bull in a china shop: very awkward or clumsy

rain cats and dogs: to rain very hard

chicken out: (*slang*) to lose one's courage and avoid doing something because one is afraid

clam up: (*slang*) to refuse to talk or reply; refrain from divulging information

shed crocodile tears: to seem, hypocritically and insincerely, to be sad about something when one is not

as the crow flies: in a straight line; by the most direct route (used in stating the distance between two points)

eat crow: (*informal*) to be forced to admit to having made a mistake; to have to retract a statement, humiliatingly

like water off a duck's back: having little or no effect

white elephant: a possession unwanted by the owner but difficult to dispose of; something disproportionately expensive with regard to its usefulness or value

ferret something out: to search out, discover, or bring to light

like a fish out of water: out of one's proper or accustomed environment

a big frog in a small pond: someone who is important or outstanding within a small or unimportant group

wild-goose chase: an absurd or hopeless search for something nonexistent or unobtainable

eat like a horse: to eat a large quantity of food

straight from the horse's mouth: (*informal*) from the original or a trustworthy source

packed in like sardines: many people (or things) being enclosed in a space, like a can (tin) of sardines

at a snail's pace: very slowly

swan song: farewell appearance; the last act of someone or something

weasel out of something: to evade an obligation or duty

cry wolf: to tell people there is great danger when there is not

wolf in sheep's clothing: a person who conceals his evil intentions or character behind an innocent exterior

❧ A Gaggle of Geese. A School of Fish. A Troop of Kangaroos. A Flock of Sheep. A Pride of Lions. A Pack of Wolves. A Herd of Elephants. A Parliament of Owls. A Swarm of Bees. A Colony of Ants. A Plague of Locusts. A Cast of Hawks. A Clowder of Cats. A Drove of Cattle. An Ostentation of Peacocks. A Covey of Quail.

limericks

Limericks are light, nonsensical verses of five lines in which the first, second, and fifth lines rhyme with each other and the third and fourth lines, shorter in form, make up a rhymed couplet. The rhyme scheme can be represented by the formula **aabba.**

Though we know that limericks are named after the city or county in Ireland, we do not have a clear idea as to why they are so named. One theory is that the name comes from a group of poets who wrote in Limerick, Ireland in the 18th century. Another attributes the name to a party game of making up a nonsense verse and following it with a chorus of "Will you come up to Limerick." The first limericks appeared in books published in 1820 and 1821, and the form was popularized by Edward Lear in a collection published in 1846.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES. Limericks, like poems, can be used in a reader's theater approach to give students the chance to playfully interpret a passage in a mock-dramatic oral recitation. In preparing your students to present the limericks included in this section, use the following guidelines suggested by John Barry in the January 1977 issue of the *Forum*:

1. Speak so that every word is heard.
2. Vary the speed of presentation.
3. Vary the tone of voice to fit the meaning of the message. (Some parts may be neutral in tone, some joking, some mock-serious.)
4. Vary the volume of voice.
5. Decide what the emphatic words are and emphasize them.
6. Pause in appropriate places. (Do not be afraid to keep the audience waiting; give them time to ponder what has been said and to speculate about what is to come.) Pause before emphatic words, before and after direct speech, and before any kind of climax.
7. Do not recite mechanically, or exaggerate the rhythm of the poem.
8. Do not pause automatically at the end of lines if the meaning does not require.

I. There was a young fellow named Hall,
Who fell in the spring in the fall;
'Twould have been a sad thing
If he'd died in the spring.
But he didn't — he died in the fall.

II. There was an old fellow of Lyme
Who married three wives at one time.
When asked, "Why the third?"
He explained, "One's absurd,
And bigamy, sir, is a crime."

III. There was a young lady of Lynn
Who was so uncommonly thin
That when she essayed
To drink lemonade,
She slipped through the straw and fell in.

IV. There was a young lady of Bygur
Who went for a ride on a tiger;
They returned from the ride
With the lady inside,
And a smile on the face of the tiger.

V. There was a young lady named Bright
Whose speed was far faster than light.
She set out one day
In a relative way,
And returned home the previous night.

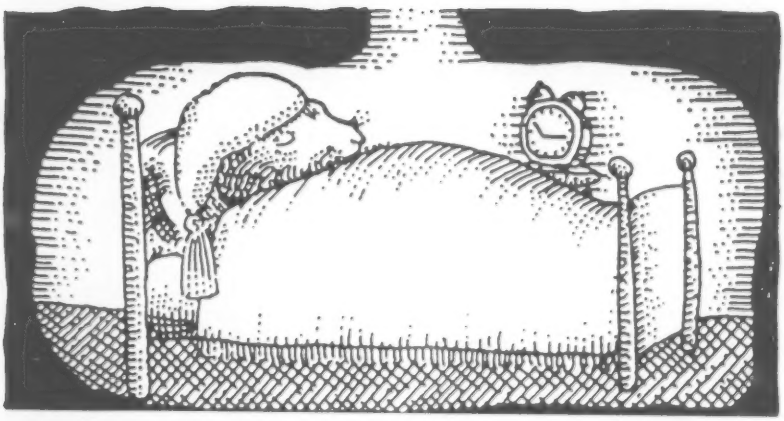
VI. There was a young girl, a sweet lamb,
Who smiled as she entered a tram.
After she had embarked,
The conductor remarked,
"Your fare." And she said, "Yes I am."

VII. An indolent vicar of Bray
His roses allowed to decay.
His wife, more alert,
Bought a powerful squirt
And said to her spouse, "Let us Spray."

VIII. There was a young bard of St. Anne
Whose limericks never would scan;
When they said it was so,
He replied: "Yes, I know,
But I make a rule of always trying to get just
as many words into the last line as I
possibly can."

IX. A decrepit old gasman, named Peter.
While hunting around his gas heater.
Touched a leak with his light;
He rose out of sight —
And as everyone who knows anything
about poetry can tell you
he also ruined the meter.

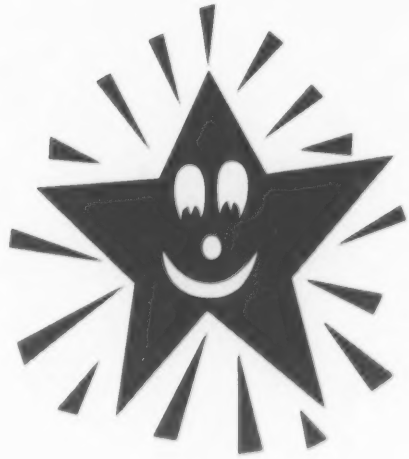
X. A groundhog who lived in St. Paul
Was the laziest groundhog of all.
On the second of Feb
He stayed in his bed,
And spring didn't come until fall!



NOTE: According to legend, the groundhog (a small hibernating animal, also called "woodchuck") comes out of his hole on February 2. If the day is cloudy, he stays out and spring is "just around the corner." If the day is sunny and he sees his shadow, he's frightened back into his hole; and there will be another six months of winter. St. Paul, Minnesota is known for its long winters, and groundhog watchers there might especially hope for an early spring.

Abbreviated limericks

In the following limericks the last word of the first line is a standard abbreviation. The last words of the second and fifth lines, which rhyme with the first line, are contrived abbreviations devised so that they bear the same relationship to the word (or phrase) they stand for as the real abbreviation in the first line does to the word (or phrase) it stands for.



I.

As he filled up the order book pp.,
He said, "I should get higher ww."
So he struck for more pay:
But alas, now, they say,
He is sweeping the elephant cc.

II.

A girl who weighs many an oz.
Used language I will not pronoz.;
For a fellow unkind
Pulled her chair out behind.
—He just wanted to see if she'd boz.

After reciting some of these limericks, ask your students to work in groups to compose one of their own to perform in front of the class.

jokes and riddles

THIS SECTION HAS AN AUDIO COMPONENT. USE THE AUDIOCASSETTE.

Jokes and riddles can serve as short, simple dialogues for listening practice with students of various ages and proficiency levels. They have proved intrinsically motivating because they give students a reason to listen and guess/listen and laugh.

In American language and culture, many adult jokes and most children's jokes consist of "playing" with language. The humor depends on words or phrases that sound the same (or almost the same) but have different meanings, or else on a word that has several meanings.

For foreign language learners, the inherent risk in this word-play is that the double meanings will not be as immediately apparent to them as to native speakers; and without that sudden "light bulb" realization, the joke may not seem so clever or funny. When a joke has to be explained, that mental "click" or sudden enlightenment doesn't happen, and the joke falls flat.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES. Teachers should prepare their students with necessary vocabulary before telling the jokes or asking the riddles so students may have the fun of catching the humor without needing further explanation. Teachers can help their students retell the jokes by writing key words or phrases on the blackboard to help them recall the details. They should pay attention to how they can vary their tone of voice or use pauses to make their joke telling more effective.

For the jokes and riddles on pages 94-99, the teacher might stop before giving the "punch line" (the statement which contains the answer or resolution to the "problem") and ask the students to provide the ending or the answer. After getting their input, the teacher should give the answer provided in the text and compare it to the suggestions made by the students. The riddles on pages 100-102 will require some time for thought. Teachers could duplicate these pages or dictate each item. The students then work in pairs or small groups to determine the answers to the riddles.

Language notes have been included for "Listening to Jokes and Riddles" to explain what makes the joke or riddle funny.

88

Listening to Jokes and Riddles

USE THE ACCOMPANYING AUDIOCASSETTE TO PRESENT THIS MATERIAL.

1

The class is studying astronomy. The teacher points to a photograph, and says,
Does anyone know what this is? It's a comet.
A what?
A comet, Eddie. Don't you know what a comet is?
No.
Don't you know what they call a star with a tail?
Sure. Mickey Mouse.

2

The teacher is asking an arithmetic question:
Frank, if you found three dollars in your right pocket and two dollars in your left pocket, what would you have?
I'd have somebody else's pants on.

3

The teacher is asking a geography question:
Mary, where is the English Channel?
I don't know. We can't get it on our TV.

4

All the kids were trying to impress Grandpa, who had come for a visit. Timmy boasted,
I'm first in arithmetic, Grandpa.
Sally said she had come in first in the spelling bee. Grandpa asked little Billy,
What are you first in, Billy?
Well, I'm the first one out the door when the bell rings.

5

The little boy had just started school. When he returned home the first day, his mother asked,
Billy, what did you learn today?
I learned to write.
Oh, what did you write?
I don't know. I haven't learned to read yet.

6

The psychiatrist was asking questions to test his patient.
Do you ever hear voices without knowing who is speaking or where the voices are coming from?
Yes, sir, I do.
And when does this occur?
When I answer the telephone.

7

A doctor had an urgent call.
Can you come immediately, doctor? My little son has just swallowed a fountain pen.
I'll be there right away. What are you doing in the meantime?
Oh, I'm using a pencil.

8

A man bought a parrot that could speak five languages. He paid a thousand dollars for it. The pet-shop owner said that he would deliver the bird that afternoon. When the proud owner got home, he asked his wife if the parrot had been delivered. She answered,
Yes, it has.
Where is it?
It's in the oven.
In the oven? But he could speak five languages!
Well, then, why didn't he speak up?

9

A man in a restaurant said to a stranger sitting at the next table,
Do you realize that you are reading your newspaper upside down?
Of course I realize it. Do you think it's easy?

10

I used to snore so loud I would wake myself up.
What did you do about it?
I cured myself.
Oh? How did you do that?
Now I sleep in the next room, and I don't hear a thing.

11

A boy was tallking to his mother.
Gee, Mom, I'm really glad you named me Albert.
Why?
Because that's what all the kids at school call me.

12

After everyone was in bed the telephone rang.
Is this one one one one?
No, this is eleven eleven.
Are you sure this isn't one one one one?
Yes, I'm sure. This is eleven eleven.
Well, I'm sorry to have gotten you up.
That's all right. I had to get up anyway. The phone was ringing.

13

Sam, why are you standing in front of the mirror with your eyes closed?
Well, I want to see what I look like when I'm asleep.

14

Why can you never starve in a desert?
Because of the sand which is there.

Can you think of the answers to these riddles?

15

What am I? I may have the face of a great man or a great woman. When I am very young, I make my first and only journey. The day I set out, I am bright and colorful and look my very best. I travel from one city to another. I may go halfway around the world to reach my destination. This trip is my great adventure, but within a few days or weeks it is over. By the time I arrive, I am no longer very attractive. My face is smudged with dirt and ink, and usually I am thrown away without a second glance. What am I?

16

What am I? I have a head, but I do not have eyes or ears. I foam at the mouth, but I never bite. I roar, but I have no tongue. I lie in a bed, but I have no back. I rise, I fall, I rush and run, but I have neither legs nor feet. I was born in the mountains, but I go down to the ocean whenever I can. I cannot keep still for a moment. I am as restless as can be. What am I?

17

What am I? Of all the things in the world, I am the shortest and the longest, the swiftest and the slowest. I am the thing people waste the most. Yet they need me more than anything else, for without me nothing can be done. What am I?

18

I have seven letters.
The first two stand for a boy.
The first three stand for a girl.
The first four stand for a brave boy.
But all my letters stand for a brave girl.
What word am I?

19

Which is heavier, a full moon or a half moon?

20

Which is correct, "Six and five *are* thirteen" or "six and five *is* thirteen"?

21

What can you never eat for breakfast?

22

A hungry donkey was tied to a rope eight feet long. About thirty feet away there was a pile of fresh carrots. The donkey wanted to eat those carrots. How did he reach them?

23

A barrel weighed twenty pounds. But after a man put something in it, the barrel weighed only fifteen pounds. What did he put in it?

24

What can you hold in your left hand, but not in your right hand?

Knock-knock Jokes

25

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Dewey.
Dewey who?
Do we have to go to school today?

26

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Justin.
Justin who?
Just an old friend here to see you.

27

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Who.
Who who?
What are you, an owl?

28

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Gopher.
Gopher who?
Go for a long walk, and don't come back!

29

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Boo.
Boo who?
What are you crying about?

Elephant Jokes

30

How do you get six elephants into a Volkswagen?
I don't know, how?
You put three in the front seat and three in the back seat.

31

Why was the elephant looking through the window?
I don't know, why?
Because he couldn't see through the wall.

32

How do you talk to an elephant?
I don't know. How do you?
You use BIG words.

33

How does an elephant get out of a telephone booth?
I don't know. How?
The same way he got in.

34

How can you tell when an elephant is going on vacation?
Oh, I know that one. He packs his trunk.

35

What's the difference between a mailbox and an elephant's trunk?
I don't know.
You don't know? I'll never send you out to mail a letter.

Notes on the jokes and riddles

1

■ **A what?:** The inclusion of the article in this question shows that he is not asking a repetition of the whole sentence but only for the part that came after "a", i.e., *comet*. He apparently did not recognize the word. ■ **Don't you . . . :** The teacher's questions beginning with the negative *Don't* imply that the student should know the answer and that the teacher is surprised that Eddie doesn't know. Her first question (beginning with *Does*) was, on the other hand, a neutral question.

2

■ **arithmetic question:** a compound noun, a common structure in English, in which the stronger stress is on the first of the two words: *arithmetic question*. It means a question about arithmetic. (Cf. *geography question, history question, multiple-choice question*, etc.) ■ **left . . . right:** Notice the contrastive stress on the words *left* and *right*. ■ **have . . . on** = wear (I'd be wearing somebody else's pants). Notice that this is a separable two-word (or phrasal) verb. One can say either *I'd have on somebody else's pants* or *I'd have somebody else's pants on*. However, if the object is a pronoun instead of a noun, the two parts of the verb must be separated: *I'd have them on* (not **I'd have on them*). ■ **if . . . :** Notice the past-tense verbs (*found, would*) in the first and second clauses of this contrary-to-fact conditional sentence.

3

■ **geography question:** a compound noun (see #2 above). ■ This joke is a play on two different meanings of *channel*. In actuality the stress patterns would be different. The English Channel (main stress on *Channel*) means the body of water between England and France. The *English channel* on a television set (main stress on *English*) would probaby be a station that provides programs in the English language. *TV* is an abbreviation for television.

4

■ **kids:** informal for *children*. ■ **Grandpa:** a familiar or child's name for *grandfather*. In speech it is usually assimilated to **"Grampa."** (Similarly, *Grandma*, or "Granma" for *grandmother*.) ■ **had come:** past-perfect tense, since the time of the coming was previous to the time of the past-tense "were trying" (past of the past). ■ **had come in first** = had won, had been the best student. Notice the past-perfect tense, since the time of the coming in first was prior to the time of the past-tense *said* (sequence of tenses in reported speech). ■ **spelling bee:** a contest in which individual schoolchildren have to spell aloud words that are read to them. The winner is the child who has made no mistakes after all the other contestants have dropped out by misspelling a word.

5

■ **had just started:** Notice the use of the past perfect *had started* to indicate action completed prior to the past action that the story is telling about (*returned*). This short dialogue includes four tenses used in typical ways; in addition to the two above, there are *don't know* (present) and *haven't learned* (present perfect).

6

■ Notice the past progressive *was asking* to indicate a past action that was in progress when the joke began. (cf. jokes #4 and #11, also the present progressive in #1, #2, and #3.) ■ **without knowing** = and do not know.

7

■ **call** = telephone call. ■ Many students today may never have seen a *fountain pen*, which is an "old fashioned" pen containing a reservoir of liquid ink, used before the ballpoint pen (or biro) was invented. ■ **just:** Notice the use of this word here and in #5, meaning very recently. (The recentness is relative. In #5 it means within the last day or two. In #7 it means within the last few minutes.) ■ **I'll be there** = I'll come (arrive) there. This expression is used often in conversation. ■ **What are you doing . . . ?:** The doctor means, of course, "What are you doing for the child?" The father answers as if the question were "What are you doing without the fountain pen?"

8

■ **parrot:** a brightly colored tropical bird that can be taught to say (mimic) words and sentences. ■ **pet-shop owner:** Notice the double compound noun. A *pet shop* is a shop where pets (small domestic animals) are sold. A *pet-shop owner* is the owner of such a shop. ■ **would deliver:** Notice the past tense in reported speech after the past-tense introductory verb *said*. ■ **that afternoon** = the same afternoon (cf. He *will deliver* it *this* afternoon). ■ **got home** = arrived home. ■ **had been delivered:** Notice the past perfect in the "if" clause to indicate time prior to the past tense introductory verb *asked*. ■ **Yes, it has:** a typical short-answer form for *Yes, it has been delivered*. ■ **could speak:** Use of the past tense indicates the husband realizes the bird is no longer alive. ■ **In the oven?:** The intonation indicates surprise, perhaps disbelief and even horror. ■ **Well, then** = in that case; if that is so. ■ **speak up** = say something; not remain silent.

9

■ **upside down:** the bottom (of the newspaper) is at the top and vice versa.

10

■ **so loud I . . . :** Note that the optional introductory *that* (*so loud that I . . .*) has been omitted from the result clause as it often is in conversation. ■ **wake myself up:** a separable two-word verb that must be separated here because the object is a pronoun. ■ **would:** expresses habitual or repeated action

(like *used to*). ■ **do about it** = do to remedy it. ■ **a thing** = anything.

11

■ **Gee:** a mild expletive that may express surprise or enthusiasm or simply be used as an introductory word. ■ **Mom:** a child's word for *Mother* (also sometimes *Mama* or *Ma* or *Mommy*). ■ **Why?:** Why are you glad?

12

■ **to have gotten you up** = to have caused you to rise from bed. *Get up* is a separable two-word verb, here separated around the object pronoun *you* (pronounced here, as often, with very little vowel sound before *up*: *y'up*). Notice that *get up* is used as an intransitive verb (= rise from bed) in the last line of the dialogue. ■ *Because* is understood between the last two sentences (because the phone was ringing).

14

■ This is a play on words: *sand which is / sandwiches.*

15

■ **set out** = begin my journey. ■ **over** = finished, ended. ■ **smudged** = streaked or stained with dirt. ■ **without a second glance** = without anyone even looking at me again. ■ The answer: A postage stamp.

16

■ Like so many riddles, this one depends on the use of words in a meaning different from the more common meaning that first comes to mind. Thus, the *head* of a river is its source or spring, its *mouth* is its terminal point, it *roars*, but not through a mouth or vocal cords, etc. ■ **still** = quiet, motionless. ■ **restless** = unquiet, constantly moving. ■ **as . . . as can be** = extremely. ■ The answer: A river.

17

■ The answer: Time.

18

■ **have** = am composed of. ■ **stand for** = represent; mean. ■ The answer: Heroine.

19

■ **full moon:** the appearance of the moon when its whole apparent disk is illuminated. ■ **half moon:** the appearance of the moon when about half of its apparent disk is illuminated. The answer: A half moon is heavier, because a full moon is *lighter* (more of it is illuminated). This joke depends on the two meanings of lighter: (*a*) more fully illuminated, (*b*) less in weight.

20

■ Note the contrastive stress on *are* and *is*. ■ The answer: Neither; six and five are (or is) eleven.

21

■ Notice the speaker's heavy Boston Irish accent, noticeable especially in the vowel of *can* and the obscuring of the *r* at the end of *never* and *for*. ■ The answer: Lunch or dinner.

22

■ **eight feet** = a little less than three meters. ■ **thirty feet** = a little less than ten meters. ■ **wanted to eat:** Notice the natural obscuring of the vowel in *to*: /tə/. ■ **reach them** = go to where they were. ■ The answer: He just walked over to them. He was tied to a rope, but it does not say that the other end of the rope was tied to anything.

23

■ **barrel:** a container shaped like a cylinder that bulges in the middle, made of wooden slats. ■ **twenty pounds** = about 9 kilos. ■ **fifteen pounds** = about 7 kilos. ■ The answer: He put holes in it.

24

■ Notice the contrastive stress on *left* and *right*. ■ The answer: Your right elbow.

Knock-knock jokes were popular in the 1930s. They have a set pattern in which the joke teller says "Knock, knock" (as someone knocking on a door requesting admission); the responder says "Who's there?"; the joke teller says a word or a name; the responder repeats the word followed by "Who?" (This is the form regularly used to ask for someone's surname when only the first name has been given; e.g., "That's Mary." "Mary who?" "Mary Smith.") The joke teller then adds a phrase to the word or name already given to make a sentence—a play on words, in which the original word or phrase is changed to a different word or phrase with the same pronunciation. Like so many jokes, especially children's jokes, these depend on homophones—words or phrases that sound alike but have different meanings.

25

■ **Dewey:** (1) a name, (2) a homophone for *Do we*. ■ **have to:** pronounced /hæftə/ as is usual in conversation; notice also *to* /tə/ and *today* /tədeɪ/.

26

■ **Justin:** (1) a name; (2) a homophone for *Just an*. Note that the two are identical in pronunciation, including juncture.

27

■ This is a variant of the usual knock-knock joke. Here the responder, following the pattern, says "Who who?"—which sounds like an owl's call, "Hoo-hoo." This kind of joke should be used after enough regular knock-knock jokes have been told to establish the pattern of response. (See also #29.)

28

■ **Gopher:** (1) the name of an animal; (2) a homophone for *Go for*. Note that in unstressed position, *for* is usually pronounced /fər/.

29

■ **Boo-who:** a homophone for *boo-hoo*, the standard representation in English of the sound of crying. (Note the similarity to #27.)

Elephant jokes were popular in the early 1960s. Their appeal depends on a sense of nonsense, blatant lack of cleverness, absurd obviousness, or such. People looking for the usual surprise ending, play on words, etc., sometimes find them completely unfunny. Like knock-knock jokes, elephant jokes depend on a set pattern in which the second speaker plays "straight man" by asking for the answer or punch line.

30

■ **you:** Notice unstressed pronunciation /yə/. ■ **get** = put.

31

■ Most speakers would not stress *Why* as strongly as is done here.

32

■ Again, the *How* would not usually be stressed as strongly as this. ■ B-I-G is said in a B–I–I–I–G way for humorous emphasis.

33

■ **out:** Notice the anticipatory contrastive stress. The *in* at the end might well be stressed a little more than it is here. ■ **telephone booth:** a small enclosed space equipped with a pay telephone, providing privacy for the telephone user (= British *telephone box*).

34

■ **packs** = fills luggage, boxes, etc., with clothing or other objects. ■ **trunk:** (1) a large rigid piece of luggage; (2) the long nose-like part of an elephant.

35

■ **mailbox:** a large metal receptacle for the public deposit of mail. In cities in the United States, these "boxes" are positioned, usually on street corners, about two or three blocks apart (= British *postbox*). ■ **You don't know:** The intonation indicates disbelief or, perhaps better, mock disbelief tinged with a childish contempt for the responder's ignorance.

More jokes and riddles

USE THE AUDIOCASSETTE TO PRESENT THIS MATERIAL TO THE CLASS.

Little Timmy was visiting his grandfather. In the morning, Grandpa decided to make a big pot of oatmeal. He put some oatmeal into a bowl for Timmy. "Do you like sugar?" Grandpa asked.

"Yes," said Timmy.

So Grandpa put sugar on the oatmeal. "Do you like milk?"

"Yes," said Timmy.

So Grandpa put some milk on the oatmeal. "Do you like butter?

"Yes," said Timmy.

So Grandpa put some butter on the oatmeal. Then he placed the bowl of oatmeal in front of Timmy.

"YUKK!" said Timmy.

"What's the matter? I asked you if you like sugar, milk, and butter and you said yes, so I put them on," said Grandpa, getting angry.

"You didn't ask me if I like oatmeal," said Timmy.

Several men were sitting around bragging about how smart their dogs are.

"My dog is so smart," said the first one, "that I can send him out to the store for eggs. He sniffs around the boxes and refuses to accept any boxes unless they are fresh."

"My dog is so smart," said the second man, "that he goes out for cigars, and he always comes home with my favorite brand."

The two men turned to a third man who had been sitting quietly. "Have you ever heard of any dog that is as smart as ours?" asked the first man.

"Well, only one dog. Mine."

"How is that?"

"My dog runs* the store where your dogs go shopping."

*manages

He: My dog is lost.
She: Why don't you put an ad in the paper?
He: Silly, that won't do any good. My dog can't read.

"Doctor, when my hands are out of the casts,* will I be able to play the piano?"

"Yes, Mrs. Jones."

"Oh goody. I could never play before!"

*molds used to set broken limbs

"Waiter, is this apple pie or peach pie? It tastes like glue!"

"Well then, sir, it's peach pie. Our apple pie tastes like cardboard."

Teacher: Can you tell me how fast light travels?
Student: No, but I know that it gets here too early in the morning.

Teacher: Is there any word in the English language that contains all the vowels?
Student: Unquestionably.

"I've invented a computer that is almost human."

"How is that?"

"When it makes a mistake it blames another computer."

A very large lady finished her dinner in a restaurant and asked for dessert. "I'd like a banana split, with three scoops of ice cream, hot chocolate sauce, walnuts, and whipped cream."

"Very good, Madame," said the waiter. "Would you like a cherry on top?"

"Heavens, no! I'm on a diet!"

Two boys were on a bicycle-built-for-two. They had a very hard time going up a steep hill, but they finally got to the top.

"Whew," said the first boy. "I didn't think we'd ever make it."

"Well, I helped," said the second boy. "I kept the brakes on so we wouldn't roll back down."

Student: I don't think that I deserved a zero on this paper.
Teacher: Neither do I, but it's the lowest grade I can give.

Teacher: Jerry, give me the formula for water.
Jerry: H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O.
Teacher: What kind of a crazy answer is that?
Jerry: You told us water was H to O.

A boy was carrying a box and he met his friend. "Guess how many chickens I have in this box, and I'll give you both of them," he said.

What is that you can't see but is always before you?

Why is "two plus two equals five" like your left foot?

If you threw a gray rock into the sea, what would it become?

Why are you tired on April 1?

What belongs to you but it used by other people?

What comes down but never goes up?

What question can't be answered by yes?

What is the end of everything?

94

Time for a smile

1. One night a man came upon a boy looking for something under a streetlight. The man asked the boy what he had lost. The boy said that he had lost his watch. Since it was obviously not there, the man asked the boy if he was sure that he had lost his watch in that spot. The boy said that he had lost the watch at another place, farther down the street. The man then asked the boy why he was looking for the watch under the streetlight. The boy replied, **"Well, sir, the light is much better here."**

2. A man was carrying a grandfather clock through the streets of the city. He was obviously doing it with a lot of difficulty. Finally, another man came up to him and asked, **"Pardon me, it's none of my business, but don't you think a wristwatch would be far simpler?"**

3. As I was walking along a street in a small town a man came up to me and asked, "What time is it?" I looked at my watch and answered, "It's five o'clock." "I must be going crazy," said the man. **"All day long I keep getting different answers."**

4. The policeman rang the doorbell, not knowing quite how he was going to break the news. The door opened and a woman stood there gazing anxiously into the policeman's eyes. "I'm sorry to tell you this, but your husband's new watch is broken." "Broken?" she said. "How did it happen?" The policeman replied, **"A piano fell on him."**

5. What time is it when an elephant sits on a fence?
   Time to get a new fence.

6. Fill in the blanks with the correct word, each containing the same four letters.

A TIMELY VERSE

A clock is an __ __ __ __

That's used to tell __ __ __ __

(Though I'm a __ __ __ __ embarrassed

To __ __ __ __ such a rhyme.)

Joke time

1. Although the little boy was only three years old, he already knew the alphabet. His proud parents were showing off his accomplishment to a friend.

"My, you're a smart young man," said the visitor. "And what is the first letter?"

"A," said the little boy.

"That's right," said the visitor, "and what comes after A?"

"All the rest of them," said the little boy.

2. The teacher gave the little boy a tough problem. "Now," she said, "if your father gave you ten cents and your mother gave you twelve, and your uncle gave you six more, what would you have?"

The little boy immediately slipped into deep thought.

"Come on," said the teacher, "certainly you can figure out a simple little problem like that."

"It isn't a simple problem," the boy said. **"I can't decide whether I'd have an ice-cream cone or a hamburger."**

3. "How do you spell 'extravagance,' the teacher asked the little boy."

"E-x-t-r-a-v-u-g-a-n-c-e," he answered.

"No," she said. "The dictionary spells it e-x-t-r-a-v-a-g-a-n-c-e."

"But you asked me how I spell it," said the boy.

4. A modern artist was showing off his work. He pointed to a blank canvas and said, "That is a cow grazing."

"Where is the grass?" the visitor asked.

"The cow has eaten it," the artist said.

"Well, then, where is the cow?" the visitor wanted to know.

"You don't suppose," said the artist, **"that she'd stay there after she'd eaten all the grass, do you?"**

5. The summer visitor asked the farmer, "What happened to the other windmill that was here last year?"

"There was only enough wind for one," said the farmer, **"so we took it down."**

6. Little Susie, her parent's first child, didn't begin to talk until she was four years old. The first time she spoke was at the breakfast table, when she said, "This cereal has lumps in it."

Her parents were astounded. They asked her why she had never said anything before.

The child replied, **"Until now, everything has been O.K."**

7. A couple of country boys rented a boat and went fishing. In a remote part of the lake they found a spot where the fish were really biting.

"We'd better mark this spot so we can come back tomorrow," one of them said.

"O.K., I'll do it," the second one said.

When they got back to the dock, the first one asked, "Did you mark that spot?"

"Sure," said the second. "I put a chalk mark on the side of the boat."

"You nitwit," said the first. **"How do you know we'll get the same boat tomorrow?"**

8. The students in the composition class were assigned the task of writing an essay on "the most beautiful thing I ever saw." The student who, of all the members of the class, seemed the least sensitive to beauty, handed in his paper first, with astonishing speed. It was short and to the point. He had written: **"The most beautiful thing I ever saw was too beautiful for words."**

9. The lion was stalking through the jungle looking for trouble. He grabbed a passing tiger and asked, "Who is the king of the jungle?"

"You are, O mighty lion," answered the tiger.

The lion then grabbed a bear and asked, "Who is boss of the jungle?"

"You, O mighty lion," answered the bear.

Next the lion met an elephant and asked, "Who is boss of the jungle?"

The elephant grabbed him with his trunk, whirled him around and threw him up against a tree, leaving him bleeding and broken.

The lion got up feebly and said, **"Just because you don't know the answer is no reason for you to get so rough."**

10. A lady had hired an artist to paint her portrait.

"Will it be pretty?" she asked.

"Of course," said the artist. **"You won't know yourself."**

GEOFFREY, PLEASE MAKE A SENTENCE BEGINNING WITH "I"
YES, MS. COMOSAY: "I IS..."
NO, GEOFFREY! YOU MUST ALWAYS SAY "I AM..."
?
ALL RIGHT. "I AM THE NINTH LETTER OF THE ALPHABET."

Brain teasers

1. How can you throw a tennis ball with all your strength and, without it hitting a wall or other obstruction, have it stop and come right back to you?

   (Throw it straight up in the air.)

2. How close a relative would the sister-in-law of your father's only brother be?

   (Very close; it would be your mother.)

3. It takes 4 1/2 hours for a jet plane to fly between the east and west coasts of the United States. One plane leaves Los Angeles for New York at 4:40 o'clock, while another plane leaves New York for Los Angeles at 6 o'clock. Which plane will be closer to New York when they pass each other?

   (When they pass each other they will both be the same distance from New York.)

4. A rope ladder is hanging over the side of a ship. The ladder is twelve feet long, and the rungs on the ladder are one foot apart. The lowest rung is resting on the top of the ocean. The tide rises four inches an hour. How long would it take before the first four rungs of the ladder are under water?

   (They will never be under water since the ship and the ladder both rise with the tide.)

5. There are ten black stockings and ten white stockings in a drawer. If you reach into the drawer in the dark, what is the least number of stockings you must take out before you are sure you have a pair that matches?

   (Three)

6. Give a letter of the alphabet that, when you say it, sounds like the name of each of the following:

   a. a part of the body
   b. a body of water
   c. a drink
   d. an insect
   e. a pronoun
   f. a vegetable
   g. an exclamation
   h. a hint
   i. a blue bird

(a. I, eye; b. C, sea; c. T, tea; d. B, bee; e. U, you; f. P, pea; g. O, Oh; h. Q, cue; i. J, jay)

7. What is it that occurs once in a second, once in a month, once in a century, yet not at all in an hour, or a week or a year?

   (the letter *N*)

8. Five automobiles were lined up bumper to bumper. How many bumpers were actually touching each other?

   (eight)

9. How many parts of the human body can you name that have only three letters? (there are ten)

   (eye, ear, rib, jaw, toe, lip, arm, leg, hip, gum)

10. How far do you have to count before using the letter A in spelling a number?

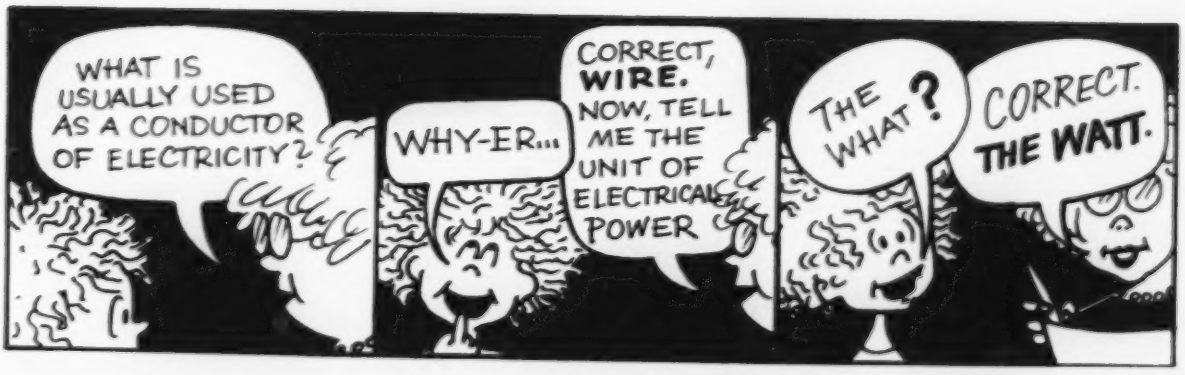
    (one thousand)

11. Name as many articles as you can think of that start with the letter S that are worn on the feet.

    (shoes, socks, stockings, sandals, skis, slippers, skates, sneakers, snowshoes)

12. What continent do you see when you look in the mirror in the morning?

    (Europe — You see you're up.)


WHAT IS USUALLY USED AS A CONDUCTOR OF ELECTRICITY?
WHY-ER...
CORRECT, WIRE. NOW, TELL ME THE UNIT OF ELECTRICAL POWER
THE WHAT?
CORRECT. THE WATT.

Silly questions

1. What is found in the very center of both America and Australia?

   (the letter R.)

2. What relatives are dependent on you?

   (your aUnts, Uncles, and coUsins. (They all need U.)

3. Why is the letter T like an island?

   (Because it is in waTer.)

4. What part of London is in France?

   (the letter N.)

5. Which is the loudest vowel?

   (I. It's always in the midst of noise.)

6. What is it that no man ever yet did see, which never was, but always will be?

   (Tomorrow.)

7. You saw me where I never was,
   And where I could not be;
   And yet within that very place,
   My face you often see.

   (Your reflection in the mirror.)

8. What is it that has a face, but no head; hands, but not feet; yet travels everywhere and is usually running?

   (A clock.)

9. How many birthdays does the average person have?

   (Only one.)

10. Nine crows sat on a limb of a tree. Farmer Jones shot three of them. How many crows remained?

    (None, the surviving crows flew away.)

100

Rhyming words

The answers to these riddles are two words (an adjective and a noun) that rhyme.
EXAMPLE: What is an overweight rodent? ANSWER: A fat rat!

1. What is a beautiful cat?
2. What is an unusual seat?
3. What is a comical rabbit?
4. What is an angry boy?
5. What is an irritated employer?
6. What is a bashful insect?
7. What is a large hog?
8. What is an uncontrollable boy or girl?
9. What is a joyful father?
10. What is a noisy group of people?

Riddle rattle

(DON'T LET RIDDLES RATTLE YOU!)

I. The first two lines of each riddle serve as a definition for a specific four-letter word. Rearrange the letters of that word to get a new word, which is defined by the last two lines.

a. Something that shines in the sky at night
Changes to rodents that gnaw and bite.

b. A fruit that's green and often sour
Becomes a distance you walk in an hour.

c. Something that frogs do very well
Can be the sound of a ringing bell.

d. An animal that eats a paper or can
Becomes the cloak of a Roman man.

II. Teachers should write the problem sentences on the blackboard to let the students find the solution.

a. By inserting the same letter 16 times in appropriate places, this jumble of letters will be transformed into a sentence of some sense:

VRY VNING RNST ARND IGHTN CNTS XCDINGLY ASILY.

b. **Their is four errors in this sentance.** Can you find them?

Riddle metaphors

1. In the night a mountain, in the morning a meadow. What is it?
2. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?
3. What can you cut with a knife and never see a mark?
4. What is the best eavesdropper?
5. What asks no questions but receives a lot of answers?
6. What gets wetter the more it dries?
7. What grows bigger the more you take from it?
8. I saw a nutcracker up in a tree. What was it?
9. What goes up but never comes down?
10. If you feed it, it will live. If you give it water, it will die. What is it?

puzzle stories

THIS SECTION HAS AN AUDIO COMPONENT. USE THE AUDIOCASSETTE.

Puzzle stories are "thinking games" that get students to think about what they are listening to or reading. In using puzzle stories for listening comprehension/speaking practice, teachers should direct their students to ask a series of yes/no questions as a means of discovering the solution.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES. Play the audiocassette so the students can hear the puzzle story that is being used for that day's class. Explain any vocabulary items that are new to the students. Play the story once more before getting them to ask their yes/no questions.

Mario Rinvolucri in the April 1991 issue of the *Forum* makes the following suggestions to enhance the potential for cooperative learning within the context of the puzzle story:

1. Allow each student to ask only one question. If a student wants to ask more questions, that student can write the question on a piece of paper and hand it to another student who has not asked a question yet to ask on his behalf.

2. Allow the questions to develop naturally. If the solution is not found and the students are running out of questions, give them a useful clue and ask them to individually write down additional questions. The students have 2–4 minutes to do this while the teacher monitors their work. At this point, students who have not asked any questions are called on to ask one of the questions which they have written.

104

Puzzle stories

Mr. Jones

In the middle of the night, while Mr. Jones was asleep in his hotel room, the telephone beside his bed rang. Mr. Jones woke up, picked up the phone, and said "Hello." Then he put the phone down and went back to sleep. Can you guess who had telephoned him?

Man in the Bar

A man ran down the street, walked into a bar, and asked for a glass of water. The bartender gave him the water and pointed a gun at him. The man said "Thank you" and walked out of the bar. Why did he do that?

Liars and Truth-tellers

The people in a far-off land consist of two tribes: Liars and Truth-tellers. Both tribes speak the same language, but the Truth-tellers always tell the truth, and the Liars never tell the truth.

An explorer going through that country came to a rushing river and saw three natives of that land on the other side. He knew their language, so he shouted across the river to the first man: "Are you a Liar or a Truth-teller?" The man replied, but his answer was lost in the noise of the rushing water.

The second man had heard the question, and seeing that the explorer did not hear the first man's answer, he cried out: "This man said he is a Truth-teller. He is a Truth-teller. So am I a Truth-teller."

When the third man heard that, he pointed at the last speaker and said mockingly, "Do not believe him! He's a Liar; but I am a Truth-teller!"

Problem: Which of the men are Truth-tellers, and which are Liars?

The Dollar Bills

A man phoned his daughter to ask her to buy a few things he needed for a trip. He told her she would find enough dollar bills for the purchases in an envelope on his desk. She found the envelope with "98" written on it. In a shop she bought $90 worth of things, but when it was time to pay, she didn't have $8 left over, as she thought she would. In fact, she didn't have enough money to pay for all the purchases. By how much was she short, and why?

5 The Crossing

A farmer must transport his dog, a duck, and a bag of corn across a river. The boat he has to use is very small—so small that he can take only one of the three in the boat with him at a time. If he leaves the dog alone with the duck, the dog will kill and eat the duck. If he leaves the duck alone with the corn, the duck will eat up the corn.

What is the least number of trips the farmer must make to transport all three across the river safely?

6 The Cat in the Well

One day a cat fell down a well. The well was eighteen feet deep. When the cat tried to climb out, it found that the sides of the well were very damp and slippery. However, with patient determination it finally managed to climb out.

It took the cat one minute of climbing to gain three feet. However, after climbing for a minute, the cat had to rest for a minute before it could go on. During each minute of rest, the cat slid back two feet.

How long did it take for the cat to get out of the well?

7 The Captured Traveler

A traveler had the misfortune of being caught by an enemy tribe and condemned to death. The only question that remained was how he was to be done away with.

According to tribal custom, the chief of the tribe was to make this decision on the following basis: The victim was told to make an affirmative statement. If the chief considered the statement true, the victim would be shot with a poisoned arrow. If the statement was judged to be false, the victim would be tied to a stake and die by fire. In any case, his death was apparently inescapable—or so it seemed to everyone except the traveler.

He made a short statement which so perplexed the chief that it was found impossible to carry out the execution.

What were the words that the clever traveler must have uttered?

106

Crossing the Bridge

Tom came to a bridge marked "Total weight 100 kilos." Now, Tom weighed 95 kilos, but he had three pineapples, each weighing 2 kilos. He couldn't throw them across the river, because the pineapples would be smashed to pieces. How did Tom cross the bridge?

The Two Students

Two girls appeared at the registrar's office of a college. The receptionist handed each of them a questionnaire to fill out. Each girl wrote the following facts on the questionnaire.

Each had the last name Smith. Each was born on February 29, 1960. Each was born at 376 East 53rd Street, New York City. Each had a father named John Smith and a mother named Gertrude Smith.

When the girls had completed the questionnaires they handed them to the registrar. The registrar read them and asked, "Are you two girls sisters?"

They replied, "Yes, we are." Looking up from his papers, the registrar saw the two girls and noticed that they looked exactly alike. He said, "You're twins, aren't you?"

They both promptly answered, "No."

Assuming that all the answers they gave were true, and that they had the same mother and father, how do you account for the fact that they were not twins?

How Can It Be?

Albert Amblefoot walked outside in a heavy rainstorm for half an hour without getting a single hair of his head wet. He didn't wear a hat, carry an umbrella, or hold anything over his head. His clothes got soaking wet. How could this happen?

A Boy and Girl

As you are traveling in the kingdom of Jerafa, you come upon a boy and a girl who are dressed exactly alike.

"I'm a boy," says the one with red hair.

"I'm a girl," says the one with black hair.

If at least one of them is not telling the truth, which is which?

82 A Spring Walk

A man lived at the southern tip of a small forest which was exactly circular in shape. His house was at the very edge of the forest. One fine day in the spring he decided to take a walk around the forest. He set out from his house, heading in a westerly direction, that is going in a clockwise direction, all around the forest and returning to his house. He found that it took him eighty minutes to do this, walking at a steady rate and making no stops along the way.

Another day a few months later, he again took a walk around the forest, but this time he went in a counterclockwise direction. Walking at the same rate as before and making no stops, he found that the trip took him one hour and twenty minutes. Can you explain why?

83 Marriage or Death

Ruling over the kingdom of Komosay was a very powerful king who had a beautiful daughter named Yamah. When Yamah fell in love with a poor peasant boy, the king was shocked and distressed. To show how fair he was, however, he promised to give the boy a 50-50 chance to marry his daughter by letting him choose one of two slips of paper. On one piece of paper would be written the word MARRIAGE; on the other, the word DEATH. Because of his great love for Yamah, the boy agreed to take this risk.

As he came near to the castle on the fateful day, he happened to overhear a conversation between the king and one of his attendants:

"Your Majesty," said the attendant, "how can you do this thing, and let that unworthy boy have a chance of marrying your daughter?"

The deceitful king laughed and said, "The way I will do it, he will have no chance. I will write the word DEATH on both pieces of paper. But of course, he will not know that; he will think he has chosen the wrong piece of paper."

When the boy heard that he was stunned and didn't know what to do. But then he thought of a clever solution to the problem. When the time came to choose, he put his plan into action. The next day he and the princess were married.

What was his solution?

108

Bottle of Water

Two travelers in a desert land have been given an eight-liter bottle of water. Since they will be going in different directions, they want to divide the water equally, so they will each have four liters. However, all they have with them for the purpose of measuring are two containers, one of which holds five liters, and the other three liters.

At first it seems impossible to make an even division of four liters each by using the three containers on hand, but they finally manage to do it. How do they do this?

shaggy dog stories

THIS SECTION HAS AN AUDIO COMPONENT. USE THE AUDIOCASSETTE.

One kind of American humor is the "shaggy dog story" a long-winded tale that gradually works up to a surprise ending—an ending that is outside the limits of reality or logic.

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language defines a shaggy dog story as "a long, drawn-out anecdote depending for humor upon an absurd or anticlimactic punch line." The World Book Dictionary describes a shaggy dog story as "a story which relates, usually at great length, a number of unimportant incidents in building up to an unexpected or ridiculous climax."

One writer has compared life to the pattern of a shaggy-dog story: both have a lead-in, build-up and let-down. "Nothing turns out as expected, and in the end, the joke is on us" (Botkin, Treasury of American Anecdotes, p. 256).

Shaggy dog stories were reportedly told as long ago as the days of ancient Greece, but Americans tend to think of them as their own because people like Abraham Lincoln and Davy Crockett told so many of them.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES. Shaggy dog stories can be used for traditional listening comprehension activities or for oral practice involving retelling and dramatization. Before playing the recording (or reading the story themselves), teachers should treat difficult vocabulary items and provide background information that might help their students make the transition from the sensible world to the nonsense world of shaggy dogs.

Each of the seven stories included on pages 116–118 of this section can be used as a strip story activity. Teachers should cut each sentence into a strip and give one to each of the students. The students have one minute to silently read and memorize the sentence that they have been given before returning the strip to the teacher. Then within their group, they share their sentences with one another. Collectively they try to reconstruct the story. Once they have done this, the students recite their sentences (as they recall them) in the order they think most logical. The rest of the class and the teacher will determine if the group has put the sentences together correctly.

110

TEN SHAGGY DOG STORIES

The Intelligent Dog

I'm going to tell you about an extraordinary thing that happened the other day. The day before yesterday, about eight o'clock at night, a young woman approached the box office[1] of the best movie theater in the city. She had with her an enormous dog with a beautifully groomed coat.[2] She bought two tickets and went toward the door, followed by her dog. The manager of the theater spoke to her, saying:

Manager: I'm sorry, miss, but dogs aren't allowed in this theater.

Girl: But I have a ticket for him.

M: I'm very sorry, but animals aren't permitted.

G: You don't understand. This is a special case. My dog is so well trained and so intelligent that he's almost human.

M: I see that you have an exceptional animal, but . . .

G: I promise you that if there is any problem we'll leave the theater immediately. I assure you that this dog isn't like any other dog you've ever seen.

M: Well,[3] all right. I'll let you go in, since the theater is almost empty tonight. Nevertheless, your dog will have to behave himself, or you will have to leave.

Several hours go by, and now the people are leaving the theater. The manager sees the girl with her dog.

M: I congratulate you. You were right; your dog behaved very well. I've been watching him, and it's amazing how quiet he was.

G: I told you that he's well trained and very intelligent.

M: He certainly is. It even seemed as if he was enjoying the movie.

G: Oh, he did enjoy it. He liked the film very much. However, he liked the book much better.[4]

The Most Amazing Act in the World

Peter: Hello, John. What are you doing here?

John: Hi, Peter. I've come to see Mr. Brilliant.

P: Mr. Brilliant, the famous theater agent?[5]

J: The same.[6]

P: Then you've finally perfected[7] your act?

J: Yep,[8] after two years of hard work, at last I have done it! I've finally succeeded in training an ant.

P: So you've trained an ant! Amazing!

J: I have worked sixteen hours a day on this act. But Little Andy is sensational . . .

P: Yes, it's worth all that hard work to produce an act like that, my friend! Just think! You're the first man in history who has trained an ant.

J: I'm sure Little Andy will soon be known throughout the whole world.

P: You're a lucky man. You'll be famous. You'll be rich.

Secretary: Excuse me, Mr. Miller, you can go into Mr. Brilliant's office now.

1. **box office:** a small office (in a theater, stadium, etc.) where tickets of admission are sold. 2. **beautifully groomed coat:** the hair or fur of an animal that has been carefully cleaned and brushed. 3. **Well:** a word used to introduce a remark, resume the thread of a conversation, or simply gain time to collect one's thoughts. 4. **He liked the film . . . he liked the book much better.** When a person has seen a moving picture that has been made from a popular book (having read the book earlier), he often comments, "I liked the movie, but I liked the book better." 5. **theater agent:** a person who acts as a representative for actors and other performers in obtaining sponsors and occasions for their performances. 6. **The same:** Yes, that very person. 7. **perfected:** Notice that the verb *perfect* is stressed on the second syllable, unlike the adjective, which has a first-syllable stress. 8. **Yep:** yes (slang).

J: Thank you. (*Pause.*) Oh, miss, Mr. Brilliant isn't at his desk

S: He's in the other office. He'll be back right away.

J: Look, Peter, this is perfect! I'll get Little Andy's act ready while Mr. Brilliant is out of the room.

P: Good idea! He'll be surprised when he sits down at his desk and sees your ant doing his act.

J: O.K. Little Andy is ready to begin. First, he'll stand up on his front feet on top of this little ball.

P: Amazing! Can he really do that?

J: Sure. And that's not all! He waves a flag with his hind feet at the same time.

P: Incredible! But . . . I can't see what he's doing.

J: Oh . . . I almost forgot the magnifying glass. With the magnifying glass you can see the whole thing and really enjoy his act.

P: O.K. Where's the glass?

J: Let's see . . . it was here in the suitcase . . .

Brilliant: Good afternoon, gentlemen. What can I do for you?

J: Good afternoon, Mr. Brilliant. I'm John Miller. I'm here to show you the most amazing act in the world!

B: Marvelous! Show me what you have.

J: All right! Take this magnifying glass . . .

B: Oh! . . . uh . . . there's an ant on my desk . . . I'll get him[9]. . . (*Slap!*)

J: Ohhh! Nooooo! . . .

B: There! I got it.[10] And now, my friend, let's see this amazing act!

J: Ooohhhhh!

The Unknown Girl

Henry: Hello, Charles.

Charles: How goes it, Henry?[11]

H: Fine, thanks. But what's the matter with you?

C: Oh, nothing. I was thinking about what happened to me at Peter's party.

H: Oh? What happened?

C: I met the most beautiful girl in the world.

H: Really? What's her name?

C: Her name? Her name? I wish I knew!

H: Do you mean to tell me that you don't even know her name? How can that be?

C: I'm still not sure how it happened. You know how shy I am with girls. I guess I got flustered[12] when I was with her.

H: Yes, I know you're shy when you're with girls.

C: Well, I finally managed[13] to get up enough nerve[14] to ask her to dance. But I couldn't say a word to her. Nothing came to me.[15]

H: Man! I would have thought of *something* to talk about!

C: When the music stopped, I was able to say a few words to her.

H: But you didn't ask her name?

C: I tried to. . . . Listen to what we said to each other, and then maybe you can understand why I didn't get her name[16].

C: Thank you very much for the dance.

Girl: You're welcome. I enjoyed it very much, but now I must go.

C: Oh . . . uh . . . miss!

G: Yes?

C: Can I call you tomorrow?

G: Of course, if you want to.

C: Will you give me your phone number?

G: You can find it in the telephone directory.

C: Oh, of course, How stupid I am!

G: Now I must go.

C: But . . . uh . . . uh . . . I don't know your name.

G: You can find my name in the telephone directory too! Goodbye!

The Hunter and the Lion

When I was in Africa last year, a man told me about an incredible experience. The conversation went something like this:

Hunter: The other day the most extraordinary thing happened to me!

Tourist: I suppose that you professional hunters have interesting experiences every day.

H: I'm not a professional hunter; quite the contrary. My sport is to shoot at fixed[17] targets, a great distance away.

T: That seems like the best way to learn to shoot well.

H: But it didn't turn out to be.[18] I've decided to quit hunting animals and go back to my own country.

9. **I'll get him:** I'll catch (or trap or kill) him (in this case, kill the ant). 10. **I got it:** I killed the ant. 11. **How goes it?:** An informal greeting, meaning "How is everything with you?" 12. **got flustered:** became nervous and confused. 13. **managed:** was able (by making an effort). 14. **get up enough nerve:** become bold enough. 15. **nothing came to me:** nothing occurred to me; nothing came into my mind to say. 16. **get her name:** learn her name; find out what her name was. 17. **fixed:** stationary, not movable. 18. **it didn't turn out to be:** it didn't have that result; it didn't prove to be so.

T: Oh, why?

H: I'll tell you. The other morning[19] I was walking through the jungle, and suddenly the blood froze in my veins![20]

T: What happened?

H: Less than three meters away, hidden in the grass, was an enormous lion. With a terrible roar, he leaped toward me with a great bound.[21]

T: No!

H: I kneeled down, aimed my rifle, and shot—boom!—but as I had no practice in shooting at moving targets at such a short distance, I didn't hit him.

T: And you're still alive!

H: Only by the grace of God. You see, the lion made such a long leap that he went flying over my head, and landed[22] some five meters away from me.

T: What happened then?

H: Well, the other hunters came running, and the lion quickly disappeared into the jungle.

T: And this experience cured you of hunting?[23]

H: No. It was what I saw later that made me decide to quit hunting.

T: And what was that?

H: Listen . . . I returned to the camp and immediately began to practice shooting at moving targets at close range,[24] in order to be able to kill a lion if another one should attack me. One of the boys tossed tin cans into the air and I shot at them . . .

T: Yes, yes, go on.

H: It was going well, and I was beginning to get my confidence back. I believed that I already had the advantage over the lion, and I was anxious to meet him again.

T: Then what happened that made you decide to quit hunting?

H: Well, I'll tell you. As soon as I stopped practicing, I heard strange sounds coming from the jungle. I heard a pum, pum, pum . . .

T: What was it?

H: I looked up over the fence, and there at the edge of the jungle was the same lion.

T: And just seeing it was enough to make you decide to go back to your own country?

H: No. It was what the lion was doing that made me decide!

T: What was that?

H: Believe it or not, the lion was practicing short jumps!

The Practical Country Boy

It's a cold winter afternoon. A car comes along a little-traveled[24] road. The motor is not working well, and it finally stalls.[25] The automobile slows down until it stops. Two men get out, and they begin to talk:

1: What happened?

2: I guess we ran out of[26] gasoline.

1: What awful[27] luck! It's . . . it's cold here. Look, there's nothing in sight.[28] We can't make a phone call. And there's no traffic on this highway.

2: We'll have to walk to the nearest town and find a gas station.[29] Let's go on ahead, because the last town we passed was more than a hundred kilometers[30] back.

1: But how do we know there's a town any closer in this direction?

2: Yeah,[31] you're right! We don't have any idea how long it will take us to get to the nearest town. And I don't have a map of this area.

1: Well, the best thing to do is walk to the nearest town—if it isn't too far. On the other hand, if it's more than two hours away, it would be better to stay with the car.

2: Wait a minute! Here comes someone. Maybe he can tell us how far it is to the nearest town. Let's wait till he gets here.

1: I beg your pardon,[32] can you tell us how long it would take us to walk to the nearest town?

2: Do you suppose he's deaf? He just stands there and looks at us without saying a word.

1: Maybe he didn't hear me. I'll try to explain our problem to him again. Look, son,[33] if it doesn't take more than two hours to walk to the nearest town, we want to go there. If it would take longer to get there, we'll stay here in the car. Now can you please[34] tell us how long it will take us to walk to that town?

2: He still doesn't answer. The best thing we can do is stay here.

19. **the other morning:** one morning recently (several days ago). 20. **the blood froze in my veins:** a metaphorical expression denoting great fear. 21. **bound:** leap; jump. 22. **cured you of hunting:** made you want to stop hunting completely. 23. **at close range:** at a short distance. 24. **little-traveled:** not having much traffic; not used by many travelers. (The opposite of *little traveled* is *well-traveled*, not **big-traveled*.) 25. **stalls:** stops working; fails to function. 26. **ran out of:** exhausted (used up) the supply of; had no more. 27. **awful:** extremely bad; terrible. 28. **in sight:** that can be seen. 29. **gas station:** place where gasoline (petrol) is sold. 30. **kilometers:** This word is often pronounced *kilométers* (with major stress on the second syllable). 31. **Yeah:** yes (informal). 32. **I beg your pardon:** excuse me (an expression used preliminary to asking someone—especially a stranger—a question). 33. **Look, son:** an opening remark used to obtain the boy's full attention. 34. **Now can you please . . . :** a restrained impatient utterance introducing a repeated request.

1: I suppose you're right. Come on, let's go back to the car.

The travelers walk quickly toward the car, which is about twenty-five steps away. The boy remains silent, gazing at them intently. He keeps watching their movements while he calls to them in a loud voice:

Country Boy: Hey, mister![35] You can get to town in forty-five minutes!

2: Oh! Then you're not deaf, after all.

C: No, of course not!

1: Then why didn't you answer us before?

C: How could I answer you, without knowing how fast you walked?

The Excessive Bill

Once a man received an exorbitant[36] bill for legal services. He considered the amount excessive, so he went right[37] to the lawyer's office. As I understand it, the conversation went like this:

Client: Is this really my bill?

Lawyer: Isn't this your name on the bill?

C: Yes

L: Who handled[38] it?

C: One of your secretaries. The tall one with blonde hair and . . .

L: Yes, yes, Miss Thompson. She's very accurate. There's no doubt that the bill is correct.

C: But this bill is too much for the service I received from your office. I didn't even have the professional services of a real lawyer.

L: That doesn't have anything to do with it.[39] Here the charge is the same, whether I do the work personally or a secretary takes care of[40] a routine matter such as yours.

C: But . . . but it's too much!

L: Sir, you take care of your business and I'll take care of mine!

C: Obviously you don't know who I am!

L: And who are you, sir?

C: Now I understand this exorbitant bill.

L: What do you mean?

C: Simply that I belong to the same profession as you do.

L: Oh, well! Then there was an oversight.[41] My secretary didn't make a note of that fact. I'm very sorry about the mistake.

C: Oh, that's all right. It could happen to anyone.

L: So you're a member of my profession, eh?[42] Well, in that case, I'll give you a discount of seventy-five percent.

C: That's better! Now that the bill is for a reasonable sum, I'll pay it right away. Here's the money.

L: Thank you very much. I hope that you'll forgive this mistake.

C: Naturally.

After taking the money, the lawyer sees his client[43] to the door with great respect and courtesy, and says:

L: But tell me, friend, where is your office?

C: Oh, I don't have an office.

L: But you just told me that you had the same profession as I do.

C: Yes, I did. I'm a thief, too!

The Hayseed and the Taxi Driver

It's a dark, cold, dreary, rainy night. The taxi driver hasn't had a single fare[44] all day. When he goes by the entrance of the main railway station, he sees a young man from the country[45] coming out, carrying two suitcases. "Aha!" thinks the taxi driver, "here's an opportunity to make up for[46] the rest of this bad day." He quickly parks the taxi and opens the door.

Driver: Where do you want to go, sir?

Hayseed: To the Continental Hotel.

When the taxi driver hears that, his hopes of a profitable trip vanish. The Continental Hotel is scarcely[47] two blocks away. The most the hayseed[48] will give him is fifty cents, which is the minimum fare.[49] Only fifty cents. What bad luck! Then the idea of taking his passenger by a longer route occurs to him—a route that goes all around the city and then back to the Continental Hotel. This he does, and after a long time the taxi finally arrives at the entrance to the hotel.

Driver: You owe me fifteen dollars, sir.

Hayseed: What? Fifteen dollars? Do you take me for[50] a fool? You're trying to cheat me.

35. **Hey, mister!:** an attention-getting phrase, shouted from a distance. 36. **exorbitant:** excessive; much larger than it should be. 37. **right:** immediately; straightway. 38. **handled:** dealt with; managed; took care of. 39. **doesn't have anything to do with it:** has no bearing on the matter; has no connection with it; is not a factor. 40. **takes care of:** manages; handles; deals with. 41. **oversight:** unintentional omission or careless mistake . (Note the strong stress on *was*, indicating a contrast with his previous assertion that there had been no mistake.) 42. **eh?:** an interjection added at the end of a statement to ask for confirmation or express inquiry. 43. **client:** customer of someone who performs professional services. 44. **fare:** paying passenger. (For another meaning of *fare*, see note 49.) 45. **from the country:** from a rural, or farming, area (as opposed to a city or urban area). 46. **make up for:** compensate for. 47. **scarcely:** hardly; barely; only just. 48. **hayseed:** a person from a farming area not wise in the ways of the city. (Also called *yokel* or *country bumpkin*.) People in the city sometimes try to take advantage of these rural types, who seem awkward and unsophisticated. 49. **fare:** price charged for a trip. (For a different meaning of *fare*, see note 44.)

D: How dare you accuse me . . .

H: You must think I don't know my way around.

D: But . . .

H: Only last week I took a taxi from the station to this hotel. I know how much the trip should cost!

D: Oh . . . oh . . . all right. Now . . . now look[52] . . . uh . . .

H: I have a notion to[53] call the police.

D: Oh, no! Please don't do that! I have a sick wife and four hungry children.

H: All right! This time I'll let it go.[54]

D: Oh, thank you, sir. And you're right. The trip isn't worth fifteen dollars[55] . . .

H: You don't have to tell me that. I may come from the country, but I'm as smart as you city folks, and I know how much the trip ought to cost.

D: Yes, sir.

H: I just won't be cheated. I won't pay you a cent more than I paid the other taxi last week . . . thirteen dollars![56]

The Secret of a Long Life

I'm John Doe. I'm a journalist with an important magazine. The other day I saw a white-haired man sitting on the porch in front of his house. I could see the wrinkles in his face and neck, and his wrinkled hands. Articles on the secrets of living to an advanced age are always popular with our readers, so I decided to pursue[57] this story and discover the secret of this man's long life. As I approached him, I said:

John: Sir, would it bother you if I talked with you for just a moment?

Man: Not at all. On the contrary[58] it would delight me. I get very bored sitting here, even for a short time. Until a little while ago I lived a full and active life without a moment's rest.

J: Well,[59] they say that a lot of activity helps one to live a long time.

M: That's true, very true. I still feel very well, although my step has slowed down a little.

The conversation continued in that vein[60] for a while. Although I try to be very considerate about obtaining information from older people, it seemed to me that it would now be all right to begin to ask some discreet[61] questions.

J: Would it bother you if I smoked a cigarette?

M: Not at all.

J: I'd offer you one, but I suppose you probably don't smoke, or drink, or . . .

M: On the contrary! I've always smoked my head off.[62] And until a little while ago I went dancing every night. And as for alcoholic drinks . . .

J: Do you mean to say that you've done these things all your life?

M: Of course. Why does that surprise you so much?

J: I've always been told that doing those things is bad for the health.

M: Ridiculous!

J: I suppose that you have another secret . . . a lot of fruit . . . vegetables[63] . . . a lot of exercise in the fresh air . . .

M: Don't be silly! I hate exercise in the fresh air, and I don't like any kind of vegetables.

J: This is incredible!

M: What do you mean, incredible? What are you talking about?

J: It's just that I can't understand how you've been able to live like that and to have lasted so long. Tell me, how old are you?[64]

M: Me? I'm twenty-seven. Why?

The Doctor and the Painter

A famous painter was very worried about his sick dog, which had a badly inflamed[65] throat. But he knew that a doctor wouldn't examine a dog. So, in order to get a specialist to come to his house to look at his dog, he decided to pretend that he himself was the one who was ill. This artist was a very selfish man, so in spite of[66] the fact that it was past midnight, he called a prominent[67] throat specialist.[68]

Doctor: Hello! This is Dr. Knowitall.

Artist: Oh, Doctor Knowitall, you must come to my house immediately.

D: Sir! I am a famous throat specialist. I only see patients during the day, and by appointment.

A: But . . . but doctor, I'm the celebrated[69] portrait painter, Raphael DePicter, and this is an emergency.

50. **take me for:** think I am. 51. **don't know my way around:** don't know how things are done. 52. **look:** a stalling and calming word meaning something like "Let me explain" or "Please try to understand" 53. **have a notion to:** feel inclined to; think I should 54. **let it go:** forget it; overlook it; excuse it. 55. **The trip isn't worth fifteen dollars:** notice the strong stress on *isn't*, indicating confirmation of the hayseed's implied negative statement. 56. **thirteen dollars:** Note the contrastive stress on *thirteen* (as against *fifteen* dollars). The surprise element in this story is that the hayseed ends up cheating himself. In most stories that begin as this one does, the man from the country outwits the "city slicker." 57. **pursue:** follow up; try to find out more about. 58. **on the contrary:** quite the opposite. 59. **well.** See note 3. 60. **in that vein:** in that way; along those lines. 61. **discreet:** proper; inoffensive; prudent 62. **smoked my head off:** smoked a great deal 63. **vegetables:** Notice that this word has only three syllables. 64. **How old are you?** Note the strong stress on *are*, indicating anticipation of an answer different from what might normally be expected. (For the neutral question *How old are you?* the major stress falls on *old*.) 65. **inflamed:** red and painful. 66. **in spite of:** despite. 67. **prominent:** well-known; famous. 68. **throat specialist.** This compound noun regularly carries the strongest stress on the first element: *throat specialist*.

D: I've had a busy day, and I have to operate[70] very early tomorrow morning. Can't you wait until tomorrow afternoon?

A: Oh, no, doctor! That would be too late. I beg you, please come right away.[71] And hurry!

D: Very well.[72] Since you are Raphael DePicter, I'll make an exception.[73] I'll come right away.

When Doctor Knowitall arrived at Mr. DePicter's house and saw that the patient was not the artist but his dog, he was furious. But immediately he thought of a plan to get even.[74] Hiding his anger, he said calmly:

D: I can't tell you right now[75] what's the matter[76] with your dog, but this medicine will alleviate it. I'll study the case and call you when I've made the diagnosis.

At midnight of the following day Mr. DePicter was awakened when his telephone rang.

A. Who is it?

D: This is Doctor Knowitall. Mr. DePicter, come quickly to my house. It's urgent!

A: But doctor, it's past twelve! Besides, early tomorrow morning I have an appointment to paint the portrait of a very important person. Can't you wait until tomorrow afternoon?

D: Oh, no! That would be too late! And what I have to say is too important to discuss over the telephone. Please hurry!

Mr. DePicter, thinking it was about his dog's illness, jumped out of bed, got dressed, and ran to the doctor's house.

A: Doctor, doctor! What's the matter? Why did you call me at this time of night?

D: I'm very concerned about something, and I must know the answer right now.

A: All right, all right. What is it?

D: Please tell me: how much would you charge to paint my house?

The Patient and the Doctor

A very optimistic doctor is standing beside the bed of one of his patients,[77] who has been in the hospital for several weeks. The worried patient asks him:

Patient: Am I going to get better,[78] doctor?

Doctor: As you know, you are still quite ill.

P: Yes, I know, doctor, I know. But please don't let me go on[79] with . . . with false hopes. Tell me the truth!

D: I've been studying your case in my medical books, and I've done a lot of research on your problem.

P: Please don't try to soften the blow.[80] Tell me the truth, no matter what[81] it is.

D: I'm convinced that we can keep you alive. Yes, and I can even say that you are definitely going to get better!

P: Wonderful! But I don't understand how you can be so sure. Up till now all the other doctors have told me that the disease is fatal. How can you be sure that I'm going to get better?

D: I'm a scientist in the art of medicine. I've studied your case carefully.

P: Yes, yes . . . I know all of that, doctor. . .

D: In the latest medical journals they've published the results of a long study on this disease.

P: And what does this study show?

D: In your case, I'll continue the present treatment and I'll trust in the scientifically proven statistics.

P: And do these statistics show that I'm going to get better?

D: Exactly! It's been proven that ten percent of all the patients with this disease get better.

P: What? Only ten percent? But that's terrible! Does that mean that I have only one chance in ten of getting better? Are you trying to deceive me when you tell me that I'm going to get better?

D: Calm yourself! Calm yourself! You don't understand these things. It's a scientific problem.

P: Please, doctor, explain.

D: All right. As you will see, there are other factors that have to be considered.

P: What other factors? Please, tell me!

D: Listen to me. You are the tenth patient that I have treated for this disease . . .

P: Yes, yes, go on. So I'm the tenth patient that you've treated for this disease. . . . I still don't understand.

D: Simple mathematics, my good man. You, being the tenth, have to get well,[82] because the other nine died!

69. **celebrated:** widely known; famous. 70. **operate:** perform surgery. 71. **right away:** immediately. 72. **very well:** all right. 73. **make an exception:** be willing to do something different from the usual rule or pattern. 74. **get even:** take revenge. 75. **right now:** at this time. 76. **what's the matter:** what's wrong. 77. **at this time of night:** at this very late hour. 78. **patient:** someone under the care of a doctor. 79. **get better:** improve in health. 80. **go on:** continue. 81. **soften the blow:** make a sudden unexpected shock or calamity seem less severe. 82. **no matter what:** whatever. 83. **get well:** become well.

Shaggy Dogs for strip stories

A. THE POKER GAME (Strips for 9 students)

A man went away for the weekend.

He arrived rather late, after dinner.

The other members of the house party were all sitting around in the living room.

At one end of the room a game of poker was in progress.

One of the players was a dog.

After he had been introduced all around, the man said to his host:

"What a wonderfully intelligent dog to be able to play poker!"

"Well, he's not a very good player, really, " replied the host.

"Whenever he gets a good hand, he wags his tail."

B. THE DOG AND PARROT SHOW (Strips for 10 Students)

A dog and a parrot are brought into a bar one day by a regular customer.

He orders a drink and says to the dog, "Now Fido!"

And the dog starts a lively conversation with the bird.

After five minutes the performance ends.

One of the other customers turns to the owner of these remarkable creatures:

"Say! That's really something." He marvels.

"Well, it's not as cute as all that," the owner says.

"You see, the act isn't on the level."

"What do you mean?" the customer asks.

"The dog is a ventriloquist."

C. CHESS (Strips for 7 Students)

A man went to visit a friend in Chicago.

He was amazed to find him playing chess with his dog.

He watched the game in astonishment for a while.

"I can hardly believe my eyes," he exclaimed.

"That's the smartest dog I've ever seen."

"Aw, he's not so smart," the friend replied.

"I've beaten him three games out of five."

D. THE DONKEY (Strips for 6 Students)

A professor tried to train his donkey to get along without eating.

Each day he reduced the amount of hay he gave the animal.

From one bale of hay a day, he reduced the donkey's intake to nothing.

The donkey dropped dead of starvation.

"What an irreplaceable loss!" the professor lamented.

"Just when he had learned not to eat, he died."

E. THE LATE FRIEND (Strips for 6 Students)

A professor met his friend on the street one day.

"I heard you had died," he exclaimed.

The friend smiled at these words.

"But you see I am alive," he said.

"That's impossible," decided the professor.

"The man who told me is much more reliable than you are."

F. THE AMAZING PARROT (Strips for 10 Students)

A man saw an amazing parrot in a pet shop one day.

It could recite lines from *Hamlet* and sing arias from *Tosca*.

Stunned by its intelligence, the man paid the shopowner $1000 for the remarkable bird.

When he got home, he waited for the bird to entertain him.

After one month the parrot had not uttered a word.

Upset, the man returned to the pet shop.

The shopowner reminded the man that the parrot was reciting Shakespear when he bought it.

"I'll take the bird back and out of the goodness of my heart I'll even refund you half of what you paid."

Reluctantly, the man agreed and left the shop $500 poorer than he was one month earlier and without the bird.

Then the parrot turned to the shopowner and said, "Don't forget, my share is one-third!"

G. THE SMOKER (Strips for 7 students)

A tobacco-company executive traveled the country to find long-time smokers who were in good health.

He found one man who had smoked a pack a day for the last 30 years.

"If you do a commercial for us telling everyone how strong and healthy you are, we'll pay you $20,000."

The smoker gladly agreed and asked when they'd do the filming.

The executive told him to be ready at 10 am the next morning.

Disappointed, the smoker shook his head.

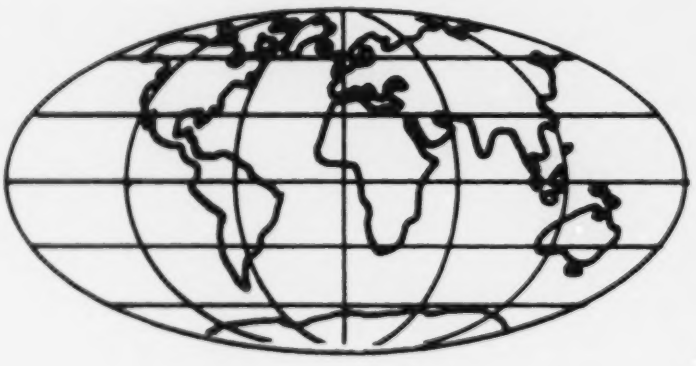
"Sorry, I can't do it then—I don't stop coughing until noon."

folk wisdom

THIS SECTION HAS AN AUDIO COMPONENT. USE THE AUDIOCASSETTE.

Folk wisdom drawn from countries around the world provides an excellent source of listening comprehension material for EFL students. In the fables attributed to the Greek slave Aesop, animals speak and act like humans displaying the human condition in a way that transcends international boundaries. The concluding stories come from Nesredin Hodja, a Turkish figure who combines the qualities of sage and fool in dispensing folk wisdom.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES. Teachers may wish to devise comprehension questions or cloze activities to accompany each story included in this section. Students may be asked to restate the folk wisdom contained in these stories. Teachers should ask their students to share any stories from their own culture which express similar bits of wisdom.



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Aesop's fables

1. Sour Grapes
   A fox, who hadn't had a square meal in days, slipped into a vineyard one morning. He saw a juicy, ripe bunch of grapes hanging from a vine overhead. He jumped for them, but they were just out of reach. "Oh, well," he panted. "Those grapes were probably sour, anyway."

2. The Stupid Donkey
   A hungry lion slipped out of the forest into a barnyard one evening. When he saw a plump donkey, his mouth began to water. But just as he was ready to jump on the donkey, a rooster crowed. He was frightened, and so turned away into the forest again. "Hey, look at that cowardly lion," the donkey brayed to the rooster. "I'm going to chase him." And the donkey ran after the lion. "Wait!" the rooster shouted, "you don't know that . . ." But it was too late. The lion had turned and killed the donkey. "Ah, my poor, stupid friend," the rooster said as he watched the lion eating the donkey. "The lion wasn't afraid of you, but of my crowing."

3. The Donkey and the Lion's Skin
   A donkey—not the same one as in the second story, but one just as stupid—found a lion's skin in the forest one afternoon. He put it on and went to the barnyard to frighten the other animals. "Hee-haw, I'm a lion," the donkey brayed at a rooster. "That's a pretty stupid joke," the rooster said. "Even though you look like a lion, anyone can tell you're a donkey as soon as you open your mouth."

4. The Dove and the Hawks
   A chicken grower set a trap for hawks that had been attacking his flock. One afternoon he found a dove in his net. "Let me go. I"m not a hawk," the dove begged. The chicken grower agreed, "Maybe not. But I'm not going to let you go. You're as bad as they are, if you're with them. After all, birds of a feather flock together."

5. The Ant and the Grasshopper
   While a grasshopper was taking it easy in the shade one hot summer's day, an ant struggled in the sun with a grain of rice that he was carrying out to his nest. "Hey, Mister Ant," the grasshopper said. "Why don't you take it easy, like me? You can work tomorrow." The ant paused. "I'm saving up food now for the cold winter ahead, and if you know what's good for you, you'll do the same," he said. Three or four months later, winter came and it was very cold. While the ant was snug in his nest, the starving grasshopper shivered under a pile of dead leaves and wished that he'd paid attention to the ant's advice.

6. The Stag's Antlers
   A stag admired his reflection in a pool of water one day. "My! But my antlers are very handsome," he thought. "Just look at my poor skinny legs, though. They look as if

they could hardly bear my weight." Just then a lion leaped from the bushes at the edge of the water hole, and the frightened stag ran across the open field. He could run much faster than the lion, who was quickly left behind. But when the stag ran into the forest at the other side of the field, he ran into trouble. His antlers became tangled in some vines hanging from a tree. As the lion was catching up with him, the stag struggled frantically to free himself, and thought: "What a fool I am! As long as I could use my skinny legs, I could outrun that lion. But here I am now, trapped by the antlers I admired so much."

7. THE LION AND THE MOUSE

A lion who was stalking a deer in the forest, almost stepped on a mouse one morning. "Please Mister Lion," squeaked the mouse. "Don't eat me. Why, I'd barely be a mouthful for you." "You're right." said the lion, and he carefully stepped around the tiny creature. Later that same day, the mouse found the lion trapped in a net which had been set by hunters to capture wild animals. With his sharp teeth, the mouse soon gnawed through the tangles in the net, and the lion was free. "Thanks a lot, little friend. Now, how can I repay you?" the lion asked. "Never mind," the mouse said. "After all, you let me go free earlier today, and one good turn deserves another."

8. PLEASING EVERYONE

Since an old man and his son wanted to sell their donkey at the village market far away from their home, they had to take the animal along a dusty country road to the town. They had just left their home when a neighbor called to them. "Why are both of you walking, when you have a donkey?" the neighbor asked. "One of you ride, and the other can lead him." "That's a good idea," the old man said, and put his son on the donkey while he continued to lead.

They were about halfway to town when three women standing by the side of the road scolded the boy. "You should be ashamed of yourself, riding while your father has to walk," one of the women said. "Is the donkey so weak that he can't carry both of you?"

You're right, I guess," the old man said. "Let me get on behind you, son." The donkey, carrying the old man and his son, had almost reached the town when a group of villagers began laughing at them. "You should be carrying that poor beast, instead of making him carry both of you," one of the villagers said. "I suppose so," the old man said reluctantly as he and his son got down. With the help of the still laughing villagers, they tied the animal to a pole so that they could carry it the rest of the way to the market. But as they were crossing the bridge just before the marketplace, the donkey kicked loose from the pole and fell into the stream and drowned. "Our donkey is dead now, and it should teach us," the old man said sadly to his son. "Whenever we try to please everyone, we lose."

Nesredin Hodja stories

1. The Donkey Brays

One day a friend visited Hodja and said "Hodja, I want to borrow your donkey." "I'm sorry," replied Hodja, "but I've already lent it to someone else." As soon as he said this, the donkey brayed.

"But Hodja, I can hear the donkey! It's in the stable!" Shutting the door in his friend's face, Hodja told him with dignity, "A man who believes the word of a donkey above my word doesn't deserve to be lent anything!"

2. The Interrupted Dream

While taking a nap on the porch, one hot summer day, Hodja dreamed that a stranger promised to give him ten pieces of gold. The stranger placed them in Hodja's hand one by one until he reached the tenth piece, which he hesitated to give him.

"Come on! What are you waiting for?" said Hodja. "You promised me ten!" Just then he woke up. He immediately looked at this hand and saw that it was empty. He quickly shut his eyes again, stretched out his hand and said, "All right, I'll settle for nine!"

3. The Noise

One day his neighbors asked Hodja, "We heard some noises in your house last night and we wondered what was happening." Hodja told them, "My cloak fell down the stairs."

They replied, "But Hodja, a cloak is just made out of cloth. It couldn't have made that much noise!" Hodja answered impatiently, "Well, I was in it!"

4. Attaining Wisdom

Once someone asked Hodja, "How can one attain wisdom?" Hodja replied, "Always listen attentively to what the wise and learned men tell you. And when you are speaking to others, listen carefully to what you are saying!"

5. Questions

One day a neighbor inquired of Hodja, "Why do you always answer a question with another question?" He replied, "Do I?"

6. SUN AND MOON

Hodja entered the tea shop one day and proclaimed profoundly, "The moon is more useful than the sun." "Why, Hodja?" they inquired. "Because we need the light more during the night when it is dark than during the daytime when it is light!"

7. A BARGAIN

The Hodja always wanted to learn something new, and one day he had a sudden inspiration to learn how to play the lute. He approached a music teacher and asked him, "How much do you charge for private lute lessons?" "Three silver pieces for the first month; after that one silver piece a month." "Oh, great!" exclaimed Hodja. "Then I'll start with the second month."

8. LOST

One day Hodja lost his donkey. While looking for it he was also rejoicing. When the people saw him they couldn't figure out why he was so happy. When they asked him the reason, Hodja told them, "I'm happy because I wasn't riding the donkey when it got lost. If I had been, I'd be lost now, too!"

answer key

section 1: word games

Letter power

Add a letter: (Note: These are only some of the possible answers; some other words could also be correct answers.)

A: 1. got; ago. 2. oily; boil, soil, toil. 3. army; farm, harm. 4. heart; shear. 5. hate; that, what, chat. 6. note; knot.

B: 1. every; never, sever, lever; severe. 2. care, cart, card; scar; scare, scarf. 3. eighty; weight, height; weighty. 4. ink; tin, pin; pint, tiny, line. 5. one; ton, son; gone, tone. 6. pint, pine, pink; spin; spine. 7. ate; hat, cat, rat, mat, sat; late, rate, mate, hate. 8. her, hen; she, the; then, when. 9. and, any; man, can, pan, tan; cane, bank, want. 10. ally; wall, call, tall, fall, ball; tally, rally. 11. earn; hear, tear, wear, year; learn, heart, weary, yearn. 12. cane; scan; scant.

Change the first letter:

1. were, here. 2. low, now. 3. year, dear 4. sat, eat 5. ear, war 6. sir, air 7. master, faster 8. hot, not 9. car, far 10. mister, sister

A T-party:

1. here, there. 2. hat, that. 3. rip, trip. 4. his, this. 5. ear, tear. 6. old, told. 7. error, terror. 8. all, tall. 9. rain, train. 10. urn, turn

Change a letter:

1. hat, cat. 2. house, mouse. 3. boat, goat. 4. lamp lamb. 5. pie, pig. 6. pen, hen. 7. half, calf. 8. pear, bear.

Change the last letter:

1. king, kind. 2. not, now. 3. mare, mark. 4. fear, feat. 5. skim, skit. 6. fool, food. 7. gram, gray. 8. leaf, leak. 9. peak, pear. 10. maid, mail.

Hidden words

Animals in hiding:

1. bear, 2. camel, 3. cat, 4. cow, 5. deer, 6. dog, 7. fish, 8. frog, 9. goat, 10. horse, 11. lion, 12. monkey, 13. ox, 14. snake, 15. tiger, 16. armadillo, 17. manatee, 18. bison, 19. dingo, 20. egret, 21. falcon, 22. walrus, 23. koala, 24. yak

Hidden colors:

1. brown, 2. black, 3. green, 4. pink, 5. rose, 6. white, 7. yellow, 8. orange, 9. purple, 10. violet, 11. gray, 12. scarlet.

A numbers game:

I. Seen: A. 10; B. 2; C. 5; D. 4; E. 7; F. 1; G. 6; H. 9; I. 20; J. 1,000; K. 40; L. 1,000,000,000; M. 70.
II. Heard: A. 2; B. 4; C. 8; D. 1; E. 9; F. 15; G. 3; H. 10; I. 6; J. 11.

Hidden cities:

1. Tokyo, Japan. 2. Warsaw, Poland. 3. Athens, Greece. 4. Ankara, Turkey. 5. Oslo, Norway. 6. Paris, France. 7. Cairo, Egypt. 8. Washington, USA. 9. Rabat, Morocco. 10. Bonn, Germany. 11. Amman, Jordan. 12. London, England.

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Word building

The ANT family:
1. elephant, 2. distant, 3. giant, 4. servant, 5. pleasant, 6. constant, 7. elegant, 8. participant, 9. infant, 10. dormant, 11. brilliant, 12. vacant, 13. instant, 14. abundant, 15. immigrant (emigrant), 16. significant, 17. plant, 18. dominant, 19. hesitant, 20. inhabitant.

An ARTful puzzle:
1. part, 2. chart, 3. start, 4. smart, 5. heart, 6. depart, 7. cart, 8. impart, 9. tart, 10. thwart, 11. braggart, 12. quart (1 quart = .94 liter).

Four letters in common:
1. might, 2. sight, 3. tight, 4. light, 5. right, 6. night, 7. fight, 8. eight.

Do you know these cities?:
1. velocity, 2. simplicity, 3. electricity, 4. audacity, 5. duplicity, 6. ferocity, 7. scarcity, 8. capacity, 9. sagacity, 10. elasticity, 11. felicity, 12. tenacity, 13. ethnicity, 14. veracity, 15. egocentricity, 16. reciprocity, 17. complicity, 18. domesticity, 19. publicity, 20. pugnacity.

Simple arithmetic:
1. cone, 2. bone, 3. gone, 4. done, 5. alone, 6. tone, 7. stone, 8. zone 9. clone, 10. throne, 11. cyclone, 12. telephone (phone), 13. no one, 14. none, 15. one.

A perfect ten puzzle:
1. content, 2. tendril, 3. listen, 4. tentative, 5. extend, 6. detente, 7. tennis, 8. soften, 9. tense, 10. sentence, 11. extensive, 12. enlighten, 13. English, 14. hasten, 15. tenant, 16. antenna, 17. attend

Words within words

Teacher:
a, ace, ache, acre, act, arc, arch, are, art, at, ate, car, care, caret, cart, cat, cater, char, chart, chat, cheat, cheater, cheer, crate, create, each, ear, earth, eat, eater, era, ere, etch, ether, hare, hart, hat, hate, hear, heart, heat, heater, her, here, race, rat, rate, reach, react, retch, reteach, tar, tare, tea, teach, tear, tee, the, thee, there, three, trace, tree

Maine:
ma, main, mine, man, mean, men, mane, me, am, a/an, aim, in, I, I'm, name

Tools:
to, too, tool, Oslo, loo, loot, lo, lot, lots, lost, solo, so, soot, sot, Sol, slot, stool

Ninepins:
starling, staring, string, sting, sing, sin, in, I

Shrinking words:
1. plate, late (pate), ate (pat), at, a. 2. stand, sand, and (sad), an (ad), a. 3. waist, wait, wit, it, I. 4. stoop, stop, top (sop), to (so). 5. snore, sore, ore, or. 6. chaste, haste (caste), hate (cast), ate (hat, cat) at, a. 7. think, thin, tin, in, I. 8. paint, pain (pint, pant), pan (pin, pit, pat), an (in, it, at), a (I). 9. bounce, ounce, once, one, on. 10. board, boar (bard), oar (bad), or (ad), a. 11. bereft, beret, beet, bee (bet), be. 12. friend, fiend, find, fin, in, I. 13. shingle, single, singe, sing (sine), sin, in, I. 14. dinner, diner, dine, din, in, I. 15. relate, elate, late, ate, at, a.

Word magic

Westward ho!:
1. rope-rode/ripe-ride 2. rope-role-rule-mule 3. rope-ripe-wipe-wife-life 4. flour-floor-flood-blood-brood-broad-bread 5. meat-seat-seas-sees-seem-stem-stew 6. foot-soot-shot-shoe 7. east-past-pest-west

Alchemy:
From nothing to a precious metal: 1. O; 2. go; 3. God; 4. gold. *From one to a bridge:* 1. a; 2. an; 3. pan; 4. span. *From myself to a span:* 1. I; 2. I'd; 3. rid; 4. ride; 5. bride; 6. bridge *Alternate route:* 1. I; 2. bi; 3. bid 4. bide; 5. bride; 6. bridge

Bird watch:
bird-bind-band-bank-bark-lark; bird-bard-bare-bore-bone-done-dove

Double puzzle challenges

A pale pachyderm puzzle:
1. warm, 2. shade, 3. rails, 4. listen, 5. table, 6. express, 7. close, 8. trees, 9. simple, 10. anything, 11. mountains, 12. station, 13. argument, 14. buildings. ANSWER TO PUZZLE: white elephant

A four footed puzzle:
1. goat, 2. idea, 3. real, 4. a pal, 5. face, 6. fits, 7. exit. ANSWER TO PUZZLE: giraffe—tallest

Middle riddle:
apple, balloon, bat, one, buttons, hat, pretzel, arrow, tee, key. ANSWER TO PUZZLE: plant a tree.

A national symbol:
1. bird, 2. yard, 3. dollar, 4. gold, 5. enormous, 6. nature, 7. highway, 8. emblem, 9. valley.
ANSWER TO PUZZLE: bald eagle

Sound/symbol surprises

Fishy spelling:
1. fish, 2. taken, 3. envelope

s-f words:
1. sun-fun, 2. same-fame, 3. sound-found, 4. six-fix, 5. sit-fit, 6. sight-fight, 7. seed-feed, 8. sat-fat, 9. sell-fell, 10. sail-fail, 11. seat-feat, 12. sly-fly.

Slight flight s/f game:
2c: six-fix, 3f: sail-fail, 4i: sound-found, 5g: sight-fight, 6j: same-fame, 7e: sit-fit, 8b: sat-fat, 9h: sun-fun, 10a: seed-feed, 11d: sly-fly, 12g: sought-fought

Fauna sauna s/f game:
1. silly filly, 2. sad fad, 3. sable fable, 4. faint saint, 5. slipper flipper, 6. sly fly, 7. fleet sleet, 8. found sound, 9. sir fir, 10. flat slat, 11. slier flier (or slyer flyer), 12. slow flow.

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Graphic English

Mind over matter:
Reading from left to right, top to bottom: Mind over matter (mental power over physical power); Red Cross; Scrambled eggs; Just between you and me; A needle in a hay stack; High seas (away from land, in the midst of the ocean); Back to back; Sidewalk

Cornerstone:
Reading from left to right, top to bottom: Cornerstone; I understand; As big as; Year after year; Working overtime; Time after time; Fall down; Side by side; Street corner; Broken heart; Falling star; Crossroads; Reading between the lines; Downtown; Three degrees below zero; Ice cube

More examples of graphic English:
Reading from left to right, top to bottom: Warm welcome; Ship on the sea; American English; Broken glass; Barking dog; Hair standing on end; Engagement ring; Pot that has no tea; High speed; Low speed

Word shapes

Pyramids and diamonds:
Simple Pyramid—1. a; 2. at; 3. sat; 4. star; 5. straw; 6. waster; 7. sweater *Twin Pyramid* (Left)—1. I; 2. it; 3. sit; 4. ties; 5. tires; 6. sister; 7. resists (Right)—1. I; 2. ti; 3. its; 4. site; 5. tries; 6. resist; 7. sisters.
Diamond—1. I; 2. pi; 3. pie; 4. ripe; 5. spire; 6. priest; 7. striped; 8. sprite; 9. strip; 10. trip; 11. pit; 12. it; 13. I.

Word diamonds:
1. I, pi, pin, pain, paint, pint, pit, it, I. 2. O, or, ore, sore, shore, shoe, she, he, H. 3. A, an, ran, rain, train, strain, stain, stan, tan, an, a. 4. B. be, bet, best, beast, east eat, at, a.

Word triangle:
1. be, 2. bee, 3. cube, 4. Nobel, 5. barber, 6. October, 7. robbed, 8. sober, 9. bear, 10. bed, 11. BE

Word circles:
1. teachers, 2. remember, 3. expected, 4. magnetic, 5. arranged

Word chain:
1. answer, 2. erase, 3. sea, 4. each, 5. chin, 6. inside, 7. dead, 8. added, 9 educate, 10. tear, 11. arrest, 12. stop, 13. opera, 14. ran.

Coded language

A code message:

Too wise you are
Too wise you be.
I see you are
Too wise for me.

The empty cupboard:
Oh, I see you are empty!

Letter play:
1. EZ (easy), 2. MT (empty), 3. AT (eighty), 4. NE (any), 5. SA (essay), 6. IC (icy), 7. FX (effects), 8. B4 (before), 9. 10S (tennis), 10. 4C (foresee).

Fun with states:
1. Mass. (Massachusetts), 2. Wash. (Washington), 3. Me. (Maine), 4. Ill. (Illinois), 5. Pa. (Pennsylvania), 6. Miss. (Mississippi), 7. La. (Louisiana), 8. Alas. (Alaska), 9. Ark. (Arkansas), 10. Ore. (Oregon).

Picture talk:
soup; salad; potatoes; meat; beans; ice cream; coffee

National park symbols:
1. l; 2. i; 3. f; 4. n; 5. d; 6. h; 7. a; 8. c; 9. e; 10. k; 11. m; 12. j; 13. g; 14. b.

Homonyms and palindromes

Spelling bee:
1. won, one; 2. to, two, too; 3. four, for, fore; 4. ate, eight; 5. threw, through; 6. see, sea; 7. so, sew, sow; 8. way, weigh; 9. wait, weight; 10. tied, tide; 11. not, knot; 12. heard, herd; 13. here, hear; 14. red, read; 15. rode, road; 16. seen, scene; 17. four sail, for sale; 18. wrote, rote; 19. blew, blue; 20. sun's rays, sons raise

Parts of the body:
1. face, 2. hands, 3. teeth, 4. heart, 5. calf, 6. hair (hare), 7. eye (aye), 8. arms, 9. mouth, 10. nose (knows)

Alphabetic words:
1. B (be) or R (are); 2. C (sea); 3. A (a); 4. T (tea); 5. C (see); 6. I (eye); 7. O (owe); 8. B (bee); 9. O (oh!); 10. Q (cue); 11. X (ex-); 12. Y (why); 13. P (pea); 14. T (tee); 15. D (Dee) and Y (Wye); 16. Q (cue); 17. J (jay); 18. U (ewe); 19. G (gee); *Plural letters:* 20. Es (ease); 21. Ys (wise); 22. Us (use); 23. Ts (tease); 24. Cs (seize); 25. Ns (ends); *Three-letter-name words:* 1. N-M-E (enemy); 2. B-U-T (beauty); *Four-letter-name word:* X-L-N-C (excellency); *Five-letter-name word:* X-P-D-N-C (expediency).

Reverse me:
1. top-pot, 2. raw-war, 3. part-trap, 4. saw-was, 5. ton-not, 6. wolf-flow; 7. ten-net; 8. dam-mad; 9. won-now; 10. mined-denim

Word find

Letter-words in hiding:
1. UFO, 2. RSVP, 3. ASAP, 4. VIP, 5. Ph.D, 6. MC, 7. BLT, 8. ID, 9. ESP, 10. TV, 11. TWA, 12. IOU, 13. DJ

World capitals:
1. London, 2. Canberra, 3. Athens, 4. Cairo, 5. Koror, 6. Kuala Lumpur, 7. Rome, 8. Caracas, 9. Teheran (Tehran), 10. Valletta, 11. Madrid, 12. Tokyo, 13. Lima, 14. Khartoum, 15. Managua, 16. Nairobi, 17. Brussels, 18. Ankara, 19. Buenos Aires, 20. Seoul, 21. Jakarta, 22. Mexico City, 23. Dacca (Dhaka), 24. Baghdad, 25. Oslo, 26. Ottawa, 27. Manila, 28. Dublin, 29. Lome, 30. Amman.

Irregular verbs:
1. began, 2. chose, 3. did, 4. ate, 5. left, 6. ran, 7. lay, 8. knew, 9. taught, 10. said, 11. stole, 12. thought, 13. went, 14. froze, 15. flew, 16. felt, 17. had, 18. hurt, 19. got, 20. hid, 21. let, 22. saw, 23. wore, 24. tore, 25. sat, 26. drank, 27. swam, 28. broke, 29. took, 30. sang

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Word adventures

Grand canyon:

2-letter words: ad, an, do, go, no, on, or. *3-letter words:* and, any, arc, cad, can, car, cod, con, coy, cry, day, dog, don, dry, gad, gar, gay, god, nag, nay, nod, nog, nor, oar, rag, ran, ray, roc, rod, yon. *4-letter words:* anon, card, cord, corn, crag, darn, dory, drag, dray, goad, gory, gray, orgy, racy, rang, road, roan, yard, yarn, yond. *5-letter words:* angry, annoy, argon, candy, canny, canon, cargo, corny, crony, groan, organ, rayon. *6-letter words:* angora, canard, canary, candor, cannon, cranny, crayon, dacron, dragon.

Mountaineering:

1-letter words: a, I. *2-letter words:* am, an, as, at, in, is, it, no, on, so, to, us. *3-letter words:* aim, ait, ant, inn, ion, man, mat, not, nun, nut, oat, out, sin, sit, son, sum, sun, tan, tin, ton, tun. *4-letter words:* anon, atom, aunt, into, main, mast, mint, mist, moan, moat, most, must, noun, omit, oust, suit, stun, tuna, unit, unto. *5-letter words:* anion, mason, moist, mount, saint, satin, snout, stain, union, unman. *6-letter words:* amount, animus, anoint, inmost, nation, suntan.

Twice around the Isle:

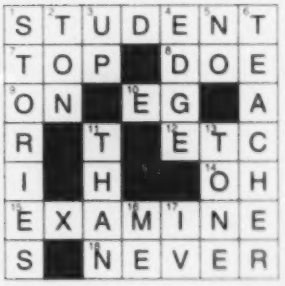
1. First Lap: a. bear-bare, b. too-two, c. dear-deer, d. here-hear, e. so-sew, f. seen-scene, g. led-lead, h. read-red, i. sale-sail, j. weight-wait, k. know-no, l. ate-eight, m. allowed-aloud, n. hour-our, o. guessed-guest, p. won-one, q. knew-new, r. buy-by.

2. Second Lap: a. chews-choose, b. or-oar, c. toe-tow, d. principal-principle, e. inn-in, f. blew-blue, g. rain-reign, h. right-write, i. rode-road, j. air-heir, k. rose-rows, l. male-mail, m. hole-whole, n. sum-some, o. bee-be, p. seas-seize, q. herd-heard, r. knot-not.

section 2: crossword puzzles

#1. Openings

#2. Education

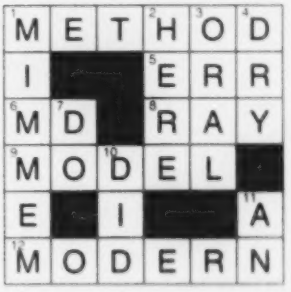


#3. Comunication

#4. Collocations

#5. Abbreviations

#6. Language Learning

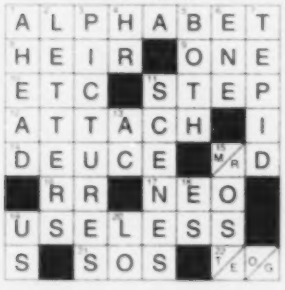


#7. Colors

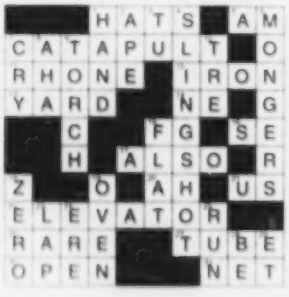
#8. Diamonds

#9. Geoffrey Giraffe

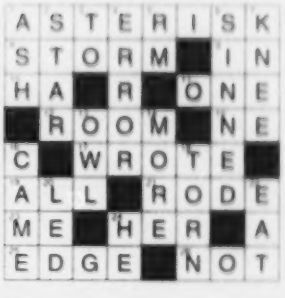
#11. Writing systems



#11. American and British Varieties of English



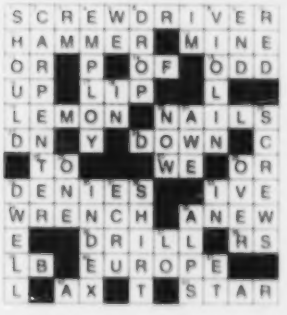
#12. The Asterisk



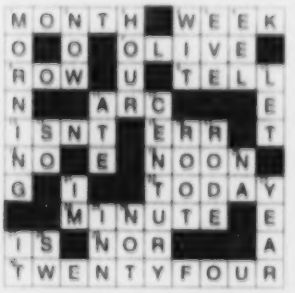
#13. The seven continents

#14. I Love NY

#15. Tools



#16. Time



section 3: idioms

Bird words:
I. 1 d; 2. o; 3. j; 4. h; 5. n; 6. i; 7. a; 8. c; 9. l; 10. m; 11. e; 12. k; 13. f; 14. d; 15. g;
II. 1. e; 2. f; 3. a; 4. g; 5. c; 6. d; 7. b.

Animal words:
I. 1. e; 2. l; 3. o; 4. j; 5. f; 6. d; 7. m; 8. b; 9. k; 10. n; 11. c; 12. a; 13. i; 14. h; 15. g;
II. 1. f; 2. e; 3. g; 4. c; 5. b; 6. a; 7. d.

Fun time:
a. high time (almost too late; fully time), b. time flies (time passes very quickly), c. once upon a time (an indefinite time in the past; a traditional beginning of children's fairy tales), d. split second (an instant; almost no time at all; a flash), e. day in, day out (everyday without fail; continuously), f. serve time (to spend time in prison), g. a stitch in time (a repair made early enough to avoid further trouble. In sewing, a stitch is a single completed loop of a threaded needle through cloth.), h. rush hour (a time of day when traffic is very heavy because people are going to or returning from their places of work).

Idiomatic Antonyms:
I. 1. all; 2. no; 3. true; 4. on; 5. new; 6. young; 7. more; 8. small.
II. 1. go; 2. found; 3. downs; 4. don'ts; 5. foe; 6. worse; 7. that; 8. miss; 9. hell; 10. lose (Initial letters spell ANTONYMS.)

section 4

No answers are required for the Limmericks section.

section 5

Listening to jokes and riddles:
Answers are given in the notes that follow the transcript of the audio recording.

More jokes and riddles:
The future; Because it isn't right; Wet; You have just had a March of 31 days; Your name; Rain; Are you asleep? The letter g.

Time for a smile:
6. item, time, mite, emit

Joke time/Brain teasers/Silly questions:
Answers are given in the text.

Rhyming words:
1. Pretty kitty, 2. Rare chair, 3. Funny bunny, 4. Mad lad, 5. Cross boss, 6. Shy fly, 7. Big pig, 8. Wild child, 9. Glad dad, 10. Loud crowd

Riddle rattle:
I. a. star—rats; b. lime—mile (*A mile is about 1.6 kms. Actually, a person can walk two or three miles in an hour.*); c. leap—peal; d. goat—toga
II. a. Every evening Ernest earned eighteen cents exceedingly easily. b. **There are three** errors in this sentence.

Riddle metaphors:
1.a bed, 2. footsteps 3. water, 4. an icicle, 5. a telephone, 6. a towel, 7. a hole, 8. a squirrel, 9. our age, 10. fire

section 6: puzzle stories

1. Mr. Jones:
the person who called him was the man in the room next door, and the reason the man telephoned him was that Mr. Jones had been snoring and so disturbing the man. As soon as Mr. Jones said "Hello," the man next door realized that he was awake and that was all that he wanted.

2. Man in the Bar:
The man had hiccups.

3. Liars and Truth-tellers:
The first man must have been a Truth-teller, because if he really was a Truth teller, he would have told the truth and admitted it, and if he was a Liar, he would have told a lie and said that he was a Truth-teller.

The second man, then, must have told the truth when he said that the first man said he was a Truth-teller. Therefore he himself was a Truth-teller. His entire statement was therefore true, so the first man must have been in fact a Truth-teller.

The third man, who said that the second man was a Liar, is obviously not telling the truth. Therefore he is a Liar.

4. The Dollar Bills:
She was short by $4.00. She had read the number upside down. The number was 86.

5. The Crossing:
Four trips. First he takes the duck across the river, leaving the dog alone with the corn. Then after returning, he takes the dog over and brings back the duck. Then he takes the corn across and leaves it with the dog, coming back for the duck which he takes over last of all.

6. The cat in the Well:
It took the cat thirty-one minutes. In the first two minutes the cat climbed one foot. Continuing this way for thirty minutes, the cat had climbed fifteen feet. In the next minute the cat climbed up the remaining three feet and so was out of the well.

7. The Captured Traveler:
The traveler said: "I will die by fire." If the chief decided that this statement was a true one, the traveler would be executed by shooting. But that would make the statement false, and then the traveler would be doomed to die by fire. But such an execution would make the statement true, and then he would have to be shot instead. The only way out of this dilemma was to let the clever traveler go free.

8. Crossing the Bridge:
Tom was a juggler. He juggled the pineapples while he crossed the bridge.

9. The Two Students:
They were two of a set of triplets.

10. How Can It Be?:
He was bald.

11. A Boy and Girl:
The boy has black hair and the girl has red hair. The statement "At least one of them is not telling the truth" means that one or more is not telling the truth. That is either the first one or the second one is not telling the truth—or both are not. If the first one is not telling the truth, then the first speaker is in truth a girl. Since the opening sentence says there is a boy and a girl," if the first speaker is in truth a girl, then the second speaker must be a boy. We arrive at the same result if we begin with the assumption that the second speaker is not telling truth. The fact is that, in accordance with the given information, if either one of them is not telling the truth, the other isn't either.

12. Spring Walk:
It took the man the same length of time to go in a clockwise direction or in a counter-clockwise direction. One hour and twenty minutes is the same as eighty minutes.

13. Marriage or Death:
The boy chose one of the pieces of paper and immediately swallowed it. Then he said that the remaining piece of paper (the one he didn't choose) should be read. Since (as he knew) it would contain the word DEATH, the piece he had chosen must (according to the king's stated rules) have said MARRIAGE. The king could not deny this without exposing his dark and devious plot.

14. Bottle of Water:
You begin with eight liters of water in the bottle; the two smaller containers are empty. Step 1: Pour water into the five-liter container until it is full; this will leave three liters in the eight-liter bottle. Step 2: Pour water from the five-liter container into the three-liter container until the latter is full; this will leave two liters in the five-liter container. You now have three liters in the biggest container, two liters in the middle container, and three liters in the smallest container. Step 3: Pour the three liters out of the smallest container into the biggest container. You now have six liters in the biggest container, two liters in the middle container, and nothing in the smallest container. Step 4: Pour the two liters from the middle container into the smallest container. You now have six liters in the largest container, nothing in the middle container, and two liters in the smallest container. Step 5: Pour water from the largest container into the middle container until the latter is full. This will leave one liter in the largest container, five liters in the middle container, and two liters in the smallest container. Step 6: Pour water from the middle container into the smallest container. (Since the latter already contains two liters, it will take only one liter to fill it.) This leaves four liters in the middle container, three liters in the smallest container, and one liter in the largest container. Step 7: Pour the three liters from the smallest container into the largest container, which will then contain four liters. You now have four liters in the large (eight-liter) bottle and four liters in the five-liter container.

sections 7 and 8

These sections do not require an answer key. Use the audiocassette for a recorded presentation of the material.

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